

THE GATEWAY

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University slow to respond to tsunami: students

KAILA SIMONEAU
News Writer

Nearly a month after the devastating tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia, U of A students and faculty members are wondering why their administration didn't do more in its immediate aftermath.

At the University of Alberta, the only immediate response was a link posted on the University's website which listed the countries affected and the aid organizations involved in the relief efforts.

"It was very difficult to pull people together and plan what strategy the University should develop."

DR W ANDY KNIGHT,
U OF A POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

However, other major Canadian universities such as the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto and McGill University began preparations for campus memorial services, foreign-student counselling services, and massive, campus-wide fundraising efforts upon realizing the magnitude of the disaster.

"UBC is very connected to those regions, and so we began to think about what we needed to do to take a minute to reflect. So we started on 27 or 28 December putting that service together," explained UBC President Martha Piper.

Associate Vice-Principal (Com-

munications) of McGill Jennifer Robinson echoed Piper's sentiments.

"It was an important event for the community just to recognize and to acknowledge the loss of life and how affected the people from those regions were."

But at the U of A, efforts by political science professor Dr W Andy Knight to arrange a similar response were met with major obstacles.

"The big problem of course was the logistical problem of having most of the members of the administration away at the time," Knight explained.

"It was very difficult to pull people together and plan what strategy the University should develop."

Renuka Fernando, president of resources for academic excellence at the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG), disagreed with Knight's assessment of the situation.

While she acknowledged his point, Fernando believed that despite difficulties the administration could have pulled together a more meaningful response.

"It's making an excuse for the people in that position. If they had really, really wanted to do something, they could have done something," said Fernando.

"It is not about if we have the resources—it's about the motivation."

Piper's reflection upon what happened at UBC within the first few days following the tsunami supports Fernando's perspective.

"As administration, we live in an electronic age [and] you can do a lot through communications. ... We were communicating right away electronically," she said.

PLEASE SEE TSUNAMI • PAGE 2

Teacher contests *Supersize Me* with 'slimmers' diet

ROBIN COLLUM
News Writer

It might seem unusual to associate an all-fast-food diet with weight loss, but that's exactly what Les Sayer is trying to do.

For 30 days, the Edmonton teacher's diet will be comprised entirely of McDonald's food, and he predicts he'll both lose weight and improve his general health.

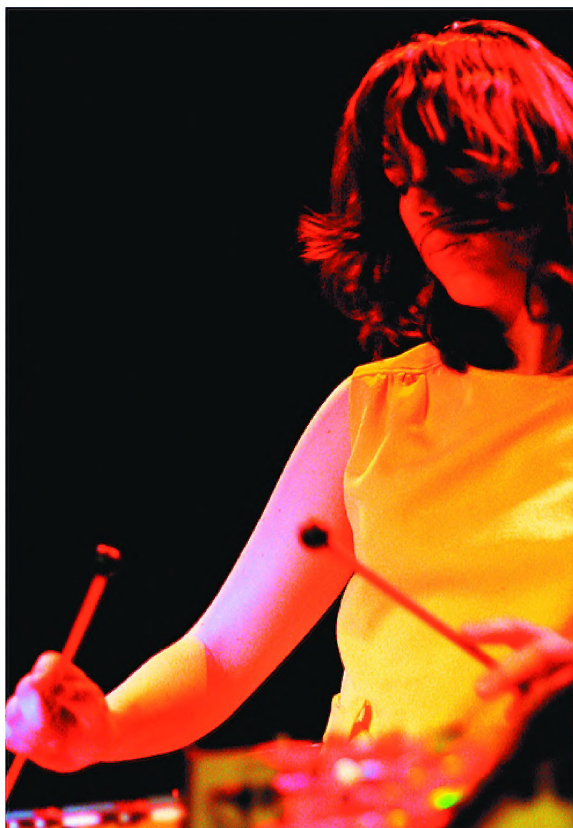
"I was trying to show my students how to be objective when evaluating a situation," he said.

"I used the movie *Supersize Me* as an example of a biased viewpoint. My argument is that I can go on a similar diet and lose weight and be healthier."

Sayer, a science teacher at NorQuest College, doesn't believe that the documentary was a realistic evaluation of McDonald's food, and thinks his plan, which will include daily exercise and multivitamins, will provide fairer results.

"The only thing that's going to change is what I eat," Sayer said.

PLEASE SEE SUPERSIZE • PAGE 3



NEAL WILDING

WOW ... ABSOLUTELY WOW Rave reviews followed the Hidden Camera's apocalyptic show last Sunday night.

Testify! The Hidden Cameras preside over the Powerplant's Sunday service

The Hidden Cameras
with *The Faunts* and *The All-Purpose Voltage Heroes*
Powerplant
Sunday, 30 January at 8pm

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Thank God for The Hidden Cameras.

Judging from their energetic and shiny-happy performance on Sunday at the Powerplant and the equally excited legion of hipsters who

flooded the bar's dance floor, The Hidden Cameras were truly made in His image.

The rock-star septet made their entrance and jumped right into "Hey," a spanky tune which showcased vocalist Joel Gibb's fast-paced, gravely gospel.

Backed by a three-man string section, a couple of keyboards, thumping drums and even a xylophone, Gibb ran through the 18-song set, casually pausing to make small talk about the weather.

Crowd favourites "Golden Showers" and "Ban Marriage" elicited the most hollers and applause, but it was the band's infectious enthusiasm and energy that made the scene reminiscent of a southern Baptist church on Sunday morning.

It was as if the fans were hanging on Gibb's next piece of gospel in a haze of hysteria, poised to concur emphatically with their hands in the air and their heads bobbing in agreement.

PLEASE SEE CHURCHYLAROOK • PAGE 10

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Don't call me crazy

Schizophrenia is a battle even without the stigma attached to it. Read about it in today's feature.

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Biathlon Man

Russell Bird, who just returned from the Universiade, explains why he'd rather break his legs than his ski pole.

SPORTS, PAGE 15

University missed chance to display internationalism: prof

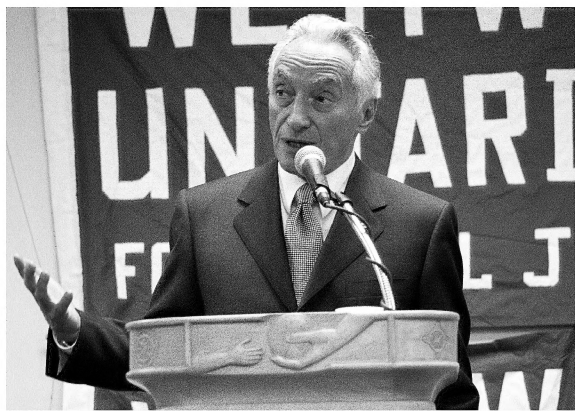

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WEAPONS OVER CANADIAN SPACE? Mel Hurtig fears Canada will become the next American colony.

US weaponization of space threatens Canadian sovereignty, says Hurtig

NICOLE TOMLINSON
News Writer

The New Unitarian Church was filled with song on Sunday evening as ladies in fancy hats opened for Mel Hurtig by chanting the tune "Missiles keep falling on our heads."

Addressing an audience of about 200 people, the Canadian nationalist talked passionately about Canada's role in the United States' plan to militarize space.

"The prime minister, the minister of defense and the former minister of defense have been intentionally misleading Canadians," he claimed.

Hurtig explained that Martin, who he called a right-of-centre, conservative continentalist, agreed to cooperate with the US plan to have a ballistic missile defense (BMD) system in space last March, but has purposely not made a public announcement because of the current political climate.

He also blamed decisions of former leaders, including Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien, for clauses in the North American Free Trade Agreement that

threaten Canada's political and economic independence.

"How much of the country are [politicians] prepared to sell?" he asked.

Hurtig cautioned that the US plan to militarize space isn't really in the interest of defense as the American government claims.

He explained that George W. Bush has already walked away from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and plans to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty when its five-year review comes up in May.

"The US BMD system is not defensive: you can always overwhelm a ballistic missile system [with incoming missiles]. It's an offensive system meant to attack from space," he said.

He explained that it could lead to a global arms race and nuclear proliferation unseen since the Cold War.

"Once the US implements this system, countries like Korea and Serbia will think, 'We'd better get some weapons ourselves,'" he said.

Hurtig said that the issue will be raised at the Liberal Convention in

Ottawa in March, and that the decisions made there will determine the role Canada will play in the process.

"There should not be a vote in Parliament [on whether or not to support the US] without a national debate taking place first," he said.

Hurtig warned if Canada agrees to support the US it could compromise the country's international position.

"Canada's ability to continue to play an independent role would be seriously compromised and probably negated," he explained.

He urged the group to write letters to their members of parliament and the prime minister to express their concern about the issue. He insisted that Canada supporting the US would be another step towards the loss of national independence.

"We have the talent, the ability and the space to become the best country in the world," he said.

"We don't want to become an American colony, but we will if we sign an agreement [for the BMD of North America]."

Local McDonald's dieter will consume more than just the burgers, fries, and pop

SUMMERSIZE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I'll be buying from McDonald's but I'll be exercising and taking my supplements."

A representative of U of A's Campus Health Centre declined to comment on the health risks involved in Sayer's diet. However, Sayer noted that he will be eating from all over the McDonald's menu, something he said Morgan Spurlock did not do in the film.

"He was saying that he would go through everything on the menu; what he really did was go through all the combos. And since the combos are all burger-fry-pop combos, that's all he had," Sayer said.

"I'm going to have meals that incorporate everything on the menu, and that includes salads and fruit parfaits and all the healthy stuff."

According to McDonald's, a full-sized salad can have between 90 and 360 calories, before adding dressing. A fruit and yogurt parfait, without granola, is 130 calories.

Sayer insisted, though, that his diet will still be burger-based, and that he

will be eating full meals.

"It's not going to be just eating the salads and a small fries each day. It's going to be meals," he said.

"I'm going to have meals that incorporate everything on the menu, and that includes salads and fruit parfaits and all the healthy stuff."

LES SAYER,
TEACHER, NORQUEST COLLEGE

"For example, for breakfast I'll have an Egg McMuffin, hash browns, and orange juice. For lunch I'll have a Big Mac and salad, and for supper I'll have a protein platter with small fries and an apple pie."

Sayer recognized that the point he's trying to make is different than what

Spurlock was aiming for with the movie.

"The whole idea of the movie was a comment on McDonald's as a corporation and how they should share some social responsibility about the health of Americans," Sayer mentioned.

"But that's not what this is about for me. For me it's about looking at an issue in a balanced way."

To judge the results of his experiment, Sayer will undergo a physical before and after the diet, and plans on having blood work done as well to monitor his overall health.

His only concerns going into the diet are related to the cost of the food.

"I'm estimating that it would cost 700 bucks to eat at McDonald's three meals a day for 30 days. But other than that I'm looking forward to it," he said.

"[My students] are really gung-ho about it. I think they're more interested in watching their teacher eat himself to death. The staff here all think I'm nuts."

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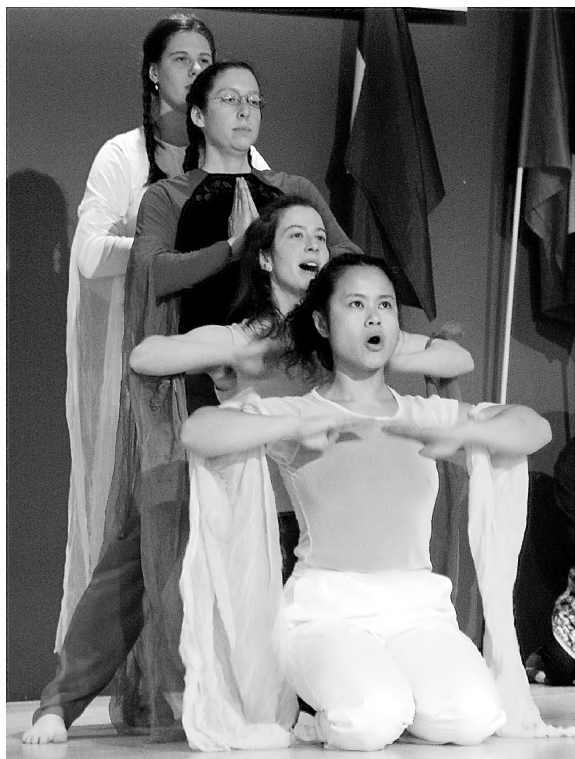
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MAKING POVERTY HISTORY International Week kicked off last Friday with a parade from CAB to SUB, performances on SUB stage and the official grand opening of International House. U of A's newest residence. Yesterday featured the week's keynote address by Prince Cedza Dlamini of Swaziland, a UN Youth Ambassador and the grandson of Nelson Mandela. Fifty free events will take place throughout the week, finishing with a ticketed concert on Friday evening. Today's keynote, Dr. Caren A. Grown of the International Center for Research on Women, is holding a lecture entitled, "Taking Action: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals of Poverty Reduction, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment." It will take place at 7:30pm in the Engineering Teaching and Learning Centre.

New ministry brings focus to advanced learning

CHLOÉ FÉDIO
News Writer

As the winter semester kicks into high gear, Students' Union members and involved students are watching the provincial government closely, hoping the new ministry of Advanced Education is a sign of greater investment in postsecondary education.

After the provincial election in November, the government divided the former ministry of Alberta Learning into Alberta Education, dedicated to students from kindergarten to grade twelve, and Alberta Advanced Education for postsecondary learning.

Postsecondary education is becoming crucial in Alberta as the economy relies more on the educated populace to stay strong, said David Hancock, minister of Advanced Education.

"As we move into this knowledge-based economy, we know that in the future 64 per cent of the jobs are going to require a postsecondary education. We've got to have a well-educated society," said Hancock.

With the increased focus on higher learning, the provincial government and postsecondary institutions are negotiating funding proposals to improve the affordability of postsecondary education in Alberta. U of A SU President Jordan Blatz is advocating a fully funded tuition freeze, largely due to the recent U of A decision which saw tuition increase for the 24th consecutive year.

"[A freeze] means that our tuition wouldn't increase from year to year, but rather the government would increase their funding on a yearly basis ... for our quality of education to be maintained. This means that the burden would stop being shifted onto students and their families," said Blatz.

Hancock explained that the affordability of postsecondary institutions is a major priority for the provincial government.

"Finances cannot be a barrier to a

student getting an education. But there also has to be an appreciation that it's a shared responsibility between students and families and the society as a whole, because we all get a benefit from it," said Hancock.

He added that there is need for a wide range of postsecondary institutions in Alberta to produce a more enriched society.

"Access is about creating the places, but that's not necessarily a physical chair at a university; that's access to trade, access in a community setting, access to literacy training—whatever is required and where it's required," he said.

Hancock explained that the provincial government hopes to provide the incentive and motivation for Albertans in the present and in the future to pursue higher education.

"We need to be among the best in the world. Not for the sake of beating our chests and saying we're number one, but because as we move into this knowledge-based economy, and if we move [away] from a natural resource-based and a carbon-based economy ... we're only going to have a place for people to live and work in this province if we develop the technology and unleash the innovation that will allow us to stay ahead in [education]," said Hancock.

Blatz said that the intention is there but lots of work still needs to be done to make sure improvements are made. "The government needs to take those words, take that rhetoric, and act on it. They need to put their money where their mouth is," he said.

Hancock said that the government will have to play a larger role than it has in the past to improve education in Alberta, but that the accessibility, affordability and quality of education is a shared responsibility between the province and the institutions.

"If we take care of the first two, the access and the affordability side, the institutions will take care of the quality," said Hancock.

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OPINION

opinion@gatewayallberta.ca • tuesday, 1 february, 2005

NAFTA shouldn't be threatening public services

A COURT BATTLE BETWEEN American courier giant UPS and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers began in Ontario last Monday after UPS accused Canada Post of unfairly violating Chapter 11 of NAFTA.

This chapter allows corporations to seek compensation when government policies are deemed to harm their businesses. According to UPS, the fact that Canada Post is publicly funded gives it an unfair advantage over private delivery companies.

This event has been widely under-reported in the media, which is a shame, considering the ramifications it could have on everything from the Canadian justice system to other publicly funded services down the road. According to trade lawyer Steven Shrybman, who's representing the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Ottawa exceeded its constitutional authority in agreeing to this provision of NAFTA, and he expressed concerns that "Foreign investors have been given the right to invoke international dispute processes that operate entirely behind closed doors and outside the framework of Canadian law and our court system." Critics have also voiced their concerns that international law does not allow private companies to sue governments for damages.

The Council of Canadians has also joined the fight, saying that this could set the precedent for future challenges against everything from the CBC to our healthcare system.

While this point of view may seem a tad alarmist, it echoes the concerns of those who originally fought against NAFTA, and certainly isn't outside the realm of possibility.

As such, maybe it's time for Canada to rethink its role in NAFTA. While it would probably do more harm than good for us to remove ourselves from the agreement entirely at this point, some revisions are definitely in order, and perhaps the upcoming meeting between Canada, the United States, and Mexico to discuss the agreement is just the place to raise our concerns. After all, we shouldn't feel like we have to fight desperately to save our public services from American corporations when the United States isn't even willing to follow rulings in favour of Canadian softwood lumber exports.

Prime Minister Paul Martin is pushing for a stronger dispute mechanism within NAFTA, but this won't be enough to protect Canada in the long run. It's time to revisit Chapter 11, along with the entire agreement, and fight for our judicial sovereignty. Canada cannot and should not be part of an agreement that violates our legal system and our constitution, and it's time for Martin to make this clear.

Because, as National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians Maude Barlow put it, "UPS claims that simply by having a public postal system, Canada is allowing unfair competition. By this logic, every public service from healthcare to education to the CBC could face similar lawsuits. We don't intend to let foreign corporations destroy our public services without a fight."

The government should be on the front lines in this fight, not only to protect our public services, but to protect the sovereignty of our constitution on the international stage. Otherwise, next thing you know Fox will be seeking damages from the CBC.

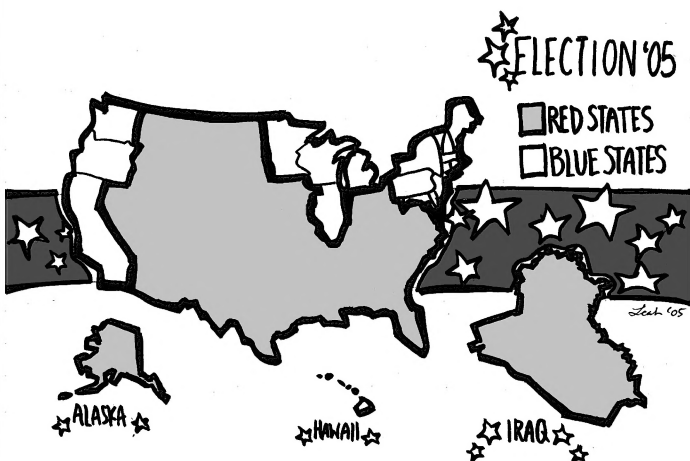
KRISTINE OVRAM
Managing Editor

Iraq bests Canada

THOUGH I'M SURE THERE'S still a little more dust that needs settling, preliminary reports from Iraq indicate that the newly democratic nation had a whopping 57 per cent voter turnout rate in their recent election. To put this in perspective, last summer's federal election here boasted a 61 per cent voter turnout.

Given that Iraqis had to deal with death threats, suicide bombings and mortar fire just to cast their ballots, I'd say Canada got taught a lesson in democracy.

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor



LETTERS

Walrus publisher praises campus papers

Last weekend in Edmonton, the Canadian University Press held its annual conference, and the organizers were kind enough to invite me to speak. While my time with the delegates was short, and I was somewhat distracted by editing duties, it was a most gratifying experience.

In the world of advertising agencies, public relations firms, et cetera, there is an enormous amount of talk about "capturing the youth market." In political circles, many commentators speak of a certain "civic disengagement," and bemoan the apparent lack of interest in participatory democracy among young people. Over two days in Edmonton, I observed the following: the "youth market" does not want to be "captured" and, judging by the discourse at the conference, the level of interest in matters of political and social significance is extremely high.

Society at large requires those in the throes of university life and work to be pushing the envelope, asking straightforward questions, holding political and institutional masters to account, and refusing to be taken for granted. Couched in sophisticated analyses and language, I saw such impulses writ large at your conference, and was struck by the sameness of purpose between editors of CUP newspapers and my work at The Walrus.

Our job as editors is to probe into issues and, through dedicated collaborations with writers, produce articles, essays, reviews, and so on that we "must read." Clearly, from what I've witnessed, media and public discourse in this country is going to get a necessary shot in the arm

from the likes of those presently toiling away at university campus newspapers across Canada.

Thanks again for the invitation.

KEN ALEXANDER
Publisher/Editorial Director
The Walrus

Ross Moroz is a chicken-stealing cur'

An incident occurred with a Gateway writer on Saturday night that has troubled my mind ever since. I submit that one Ross Moroz, in the execution of his door-attendant duties at RATT, approached my table, where I was enjoying a tasty plate of deep-fried chicken parts, and simply helped himself to one of the tasty morsels without even a nod "hello" or obligatory remark about the sad state of professional cricket.

After getting over the initial shock of having one of my delicious chicken "fingers" bogarted, I began wondering exactly how such a cad had slipped through the notoriously rigorous Gateway screening process, which has gone a long way since 1915 when it was merely a question of surviving an all-star gauntlet of paddle-wielding provincial premiers and professors. Then I felt that I must do something, anything, to inform the Gateway's readership of this disgraceful cur, when not skipping class or cracking wise about the latest "rock n' roll music" fads or other such trifle, is roaming this province's finest establishments, a craven look in his bloodshot eyes, desperately seeking fried meats, and willing to go to any lengths to secure them to shove down his insatiable gullet.

Beware, fair readers: should you see this detestable creature approaching your food and the democratic values you hold dear,

grab a copy of the nearest issue of See or Vue or whatever freedom-hating commie-pinko rag he contributes his residual disgusting thoughts to, and batter him with it until he returns to the primordial pool of scum and villany where he belongs.

LUKE FAUGHT
Arts III

Maybe the 'Golden Gastropods' would placate Smit

In regards to Emily Smit's article "U of A teams should share a name" (27 January): Perhaps the U of A teams could join into one gender homogeneous organization, like the Golden Gastropods.

You couldn't possibly have any argument for discrimination with the asexual wonder that is the snail. I mean, what team wouldn't be jealous of a mascot that can have sex with itself? Plus, you'd be a natural at defense, what with that sturdy shell and all. Our players might not move very fast, but with a viscous mucous coating and a stomach for a foot, no one would even dare get close enough to block a pass or make a tackle. Yes, the Golden Gastropods would dominate the athletics community.

MICHAEL BLIZNER
Mechanical Engineering III

Ostad, Christians, just need to get along

This letter is in reference to Ramin Ostad's article, "Message of tolerance is lost in time of war" (27 January). I personally have no flaring opinion on the matter of gay marriage, but I do believe that it's important to be tolerant of every-

one's beliefs or customs.

Ramin Ostad, the man who preaches about everybody else's lack of tolerance is, simply put, a hypocrite. Using phrases like "Christian extremist homophobic," "CRACKPOT Christians" or saying that Christians are there to "spoil the sodomy" has to be one of the worst ways to convince people that gays should be allowed to run free. What he doesn't seem to understand is that fighting is not going to solve this problem.

On that note, I'd like to make reference to Mikhael Horvati's letter to the editor "Ostad's article 'hate propagation'" (27 January), which was equally misunderstanding and hateful as anything Ostad has written. He fought for the side of Christianity, but still couldn't help starting a fight over what is really just a problem of people's narrow-mindedness, and that includes people on the side of gay marriage. It might seem like a roundabout way of saying it, but I'm just sorry that I have to see these kinds of things in the Gateway I mean, can't we all just get along?

STEPHEN KENNY
Materials Engineering II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gatewayallberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Letters calling a Gateway writer a "cur" are encouraged, and are hilarious.

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Contentious health plan should kill the apathy that normally plagues SU elections



ROSS PRUSZKOWSKI

When it comes to Students' Union elections, the general reaction from the student body on this campus is a shrugging of shoulders and what amounts to an audible sigh of disinterest. This usually stems from the fact that the candidates and issues are of little importance or consequence. This year, though, things are unquestionably different.

With the election looming a little over a month away, the referendum on a student health plan is already shaping up to become the significant issue—as it should be. The current SU Executive has decided that students are under-insured when it comes to health costs, and is proposing that students pay \$115 a year to cover the costs of prescriptions, some vision care, travel health insurance and a bit more, all the while allowing those currently covered under better plans to opt out of paying the fee. While this is a noble idea and sounds good for all parties—people who want it pay for it, those who don't, don't—there are too many unanswered questions about the plan.

One of the biggest problems surrounding the idea is the part that deals with the ability of students to opt out of the plan, specifically the fact that students who don't currently get better coverage won't be able to

opt out. Why should it be up to the Students' Union to decide the minimum level of healthcare coverage students should have? If a student decides he or she is perfectly content to be covered with only Alberta Healthcare, he or she should be allowed the same chance to opt out as someone who has better coverage and instead put their money towards textbooks or the assortment of other dedicated fees students are required to pay. The idea of the Students' Union as a Big Brother who has the consent of students to manage aspects of life beyond campus is a little unnerving.

Another question the Executive hasn't answered is how the proposed plan would affect the future of the current health services fee levied by the University, which costs full-time students \$25.26 a term.

What is more unnerving is that no matter what the restrictions on the opt-out are, the student experience of health plans at other universities paints an ugly picture of the services students can expect for their money. According to the *McGill Tribune*, while the fee for McGill's health plan has been frozen since 1996, an increasing number of opt-

outs and claims have resulted in a decrease in the coverage provided. This is disturbing because the plan has been touted as a cost-effective move for students, even though the SU has provided no figures for the number of people who would benefit from the program or how the level of coverage will be maintained over time if claims and opt-outs climb. This information is critical, as students need to know if the investment is worthwhile, and if the plan they are asked to support today will be the minimum level of benefits they can expect in the future.

Another question the Executive hasn't answered is how the proposed plan would affect the future of the current health services fee levied by the University, which costs full-time students \$25.26 a term. This fee subsidizes prescription drug costs from the pharmacy in the Bookstore and helps run the health clinic on the second floor of SUB—essentially the same services the proposed health plan will cover. If the referendum passes, students should be able to expect to get their money back from this fee and put it towards the health plan or other costs of higher education.

With this issue on the ballot, there should be more discussion about the Students' Union elections that are a little over a month away. While there may still be a dearth of interesting or exciting candidates for the various Executive positions, reacting to the referendum on the health plan with a shrug and a sigh will only end up hurting students. Let's pay attention, for once.

Human rights not the only problem in China

Lax copyright laws affect more than ripped DVDs and fake purses



IRIS TSE

shows that there is a collective mindset among Chinese merchants; they really would stoop this low in order to make a quick buck.

people on this planet. After all, who else would think of stealing hair to make soy sauce or bootlegging an orange?

Unfortunately, their intelligence is applied in all the wrong places. I guess part of it can be blamed on society. Despite the country's recent economic boom, most Chinese, especially the ones who live away from coastal cities, are still living in poverty and are likely uneducated. A lack of money combined with a lack of education makes these people especially vulnerable to counterfeit merchandise. They can't distinguish whether a package of milk powder is real or not, but they do know that it is cheap enough to afford. These people just don't have the means to defend themselves.

In addition to all of these socio-economic factors, the idea of "copyright" is still a fairly foreign concept to most Chinese. When confronted, these merchants rarely show any remorse. Instead, they quickly move onto the next thing they can counterfeit. Counterfeiting has become the *de facto* cottage industry in many small villages.

Now that China is a member of the WTO, counterfeit issues like this can no longer be swept under the rug. China needs to polish its act and crack down on counterfeit merchandise. In addition, people need to be educated about the harm of counterfeit products in order for this vicious cycle to stop.

So I suggest the next time our PM visits China, he might want to criticize the Chinese on their porous copyright laws instead of just human rights.

In China, practically anything can be faked. Horror stories include "soy sauce" made out of hair, lunchmeat made with rotten meat of unknown origin, and fake eggs.

But if you think a few sickly babies were the end of the story, you're sorely mistaken. In China, practically anything can be faked. Horror stories include "soy sauce" made out of hair, lunchmeat made with rotten meat of unknown origin, and fake eggs. That's right, fake eggs. They had shells and everything. Chinese farmers, aware that oranges with a Sunbaker sticker can fetch a higher price, actually went through the laborious process of dying their green and malnourished oranges a more attractive shade of orange. They even went through the trouble of applying fake Sunbaker stickers to them.

The sad thing is these aren't urban legends passed on from a friend of a friend. These are real issues faced by Chinese citizens. Ask any one of your Chinese friends and I'm sure they can tell you many similar stories. Clearly, Chinese merchants are the most innovative and entrepreneurial bunch of

During his recent trip to Asia, our didactic prime minister, Paul Martin, stopped by China and once more admonished the Chinese on their atrocious disregard for human rights. While it's nice for our PM to dig up the Bill Clinton book of diplomacy circa the mid-'90s, he's missing something important.

Look, I know the Chinese government seriously fucked up with that whole Tiananmen Square student riot, and despite constant nagging from every world leader who has set foot in China ever since, we have yet to see any visible improvement. But Mr Martin, along with the rest of the world, seems to have overlooked another important Chinese issue that sorely needs addressing: copyright laws.

And this isn't only about cheaply imitated Louis Vuitton purses or bootlegged Harry Potter DVDs. This is a much bigger issue. I'm sure most of you still remember the news of fake milk powder that circulated months ago. Pictures of severely malnourished babies with abnormally large heads surfaced on numerous news sources and no doubt enraged the entire civilized world. Unfortunately, that wasn't an isolated incident. The fact that there was more than one brand of fake milk powder

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First-year English shoodint be mandatory



ADAM
GAUMONT

I would just like to say thank-you to the U of A chair of English, who has come to his senses and proposed getting rid of what everyone nows is the worst class ever: I'm talking, of course, about the first-year, six-credit English class, otherwise known as the biggest waste of time in my life.

Now, I'm sure that all those pansies who take English as their major think that reading poetry and crap like that is important, but as a business student, I can tell you that it's boring and useless. Literature in general, and reading and righting in particular, has no place in today's fast paced environment, where decisions half to be made and there is no time to read about things that happened in the 1800s.

In other words, weather or not you can right an essay just doesn't matter—what matters is whether or not you can get a good job, and a decent car while your at it, because that's what people are going to see when they look at you. And as "kultured" as you may be with your fancy English and a knowledge of the *Canterbury Tales* or other

"And as 'kultured' as you may be with your fancy English and a knowledge of the *Canterbury Tales* or other boring plays written by Shakespeare in English that you can't even understand, that stuff just isn't going to help you get a job at a major advertising firm or that hi-paying government position you mite want."

boring plays written by Shakespeare in English that you can't even understand, that stuff just isn't going to help you get a job at a major advertising firm or that hi-paying government position you mite want.

Nobody that I now from my English 101 class, as it was now back then, even remotely enjoyed that class, and they all thought it was retarded and pretty much impossible. I mean, when are we ever going to need to right an essay about a book in the real world? Who even reads books that they don't half to in their stupid English class anyways? I now I don't, not when *The Apprentice* is on TV and the bars are still open, that's for damn sure.

Besides, I could have used those credits on a way sweeter class, like Physical Activity 245, which I here has lots of hot chicks in it every semester. But most importantly, there are more important things in this world then books and stories, like actual knowledge about real things that you mite need to now.

In the few essays that I do half to

right, my teacher's don care about grammar. But my "English teacher" if you can call her that cause she was just a grad student who prolly does now anything about being a teacher, was a hardass about all that crap. She kept talking about sentence shrapnel or something like that, plus she always corrected my spelling, which if you ask me really doesn't matter at all, as long as the person understands what your tryin to say.

Most of everyone learn everything they need to now by the time they get there grade nine, myself included. I did those stupid Communicashn Skills work-book's in grade school, and that was enuf for me. If I'm going too university now its too get my degree and not to take grade skool again.

In co clusion I would like to po nit out that needng and r gting is on it's way out in to ays world, and is not going 2 be need d in the f tur. Plus in tod y w rld we have co pute s & sell-f-o-es & walk e-talk es & emale +& word + space + OMG, LOL, ROTFL, IMHO, YKSNM + WWJD :> :) @-!-...-%#&%%\$

Polygamy is alright if adults are consenting



ADAM
SNIDER

It looks like the same-sex marriage debate is heating up again. And, true to form, a number of conservative groups are tossing around the ol' "slippery slope" argument. While these groups are slightly less ridiculous than Texas Senator John Cornyn, who once compared same-sex marriage to a man marrying a goat turtle, their argument—that legalizing same-sex marriage will inevitably lead to the legalization of polygamy—doesn't hold the vodka they must have been swilling when they formulated it.

Saying that the legalization of one form of marriage will inevitably lead to the legalization of another is like saying that masturbation will inevitably make you go blind—it just ain't true. Societies always draw the line somewhere, and our society has drawn the line at polygamy. Simply put: gay marriage will not lead to legalized polygamy, because no politician is going to stake his or her career on an idea as unpopular as matrimonial three-ways. But really, I'm not sure why the slippery slope club is so upset by the concept of legalized polygamy anyway.

Sure, polygamy can have negative side effects—we've all heard the stories of child abuse among polygamous religious sects in the United States—but these cases are the exception. Throughout history, humans have practiced polygamy without problems in Biblical Israel, for example, polygamy was quite common. The children of polygamous marriages generally grew up to be well-adjusted people who didn't deviate from the social norms of their cultures, and there really isn't a reason to assume

that the children of modern polygamous relationships would be any different. As long as we're talking about consenting adults—not women forced into polygamous marriages against their will—it simply isn't reasonable to assume that children produced by such a marriage would be any worse off than children raised by single parents, another family unit by many conservatives strangely find abhorrent.

Regardless of how it would affect the children, there are other reasons polygamy is frowned upon. For one, it is often viewed as misogynistic. While this is no doubt a fair assessment of many polygamous relationships, we aren't exactly living in Salt Lake City here. We're talking about consenting adults, not women who are forced into marriages because of cultural factors beyond their control. Additionally, in this age of equality, it must be assumed that if polygamy were to be legalized, polyandry—one woman having multiple husbands—

would be given the okay as well. And, again, we're talking about consenting adults who are fully aware of the type of marriage they're getting themselves into. Besides, misogyny still exists in "traditional," monogamous marriages, so it's unlikely that legalizing polygamy would make it more prevalent than it already is.

So even if the vast majority of society may be offended by the very concept of polygamous or polyandrous marriages, it doesn't mean we have the right to disallow consenting individuals from entering into whatever form of marriage they like. And, before you slippery slopers start writing your letters, I am not advocating the legalization of pedophilia, bestiality, or any other relationship in which one partner lacks the ability to consent. But, in the case of polygamy, polyandry—hell, even adult incest, though even I'm not going to touch that one—there is, as Pierre Trudeau famously said, "no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation."

HUB residents often are. Thankfully for their sakes the event organizers had the foresight to crank the amps up to ear-stabbing level and repeat the announcement every 40 seconds, vigilantly ensuring that a note forgot about the Hula-Hoops and patchouli. At my place of employment across the hall I couldn't even hear my own customers—but at least I knew there were giant dancing puppets!

Erasing poverty is a pleasant goal, to be sure, and certainly support peoples' right to make ridiculous caricatures of other cultures, but a few lessons in common courtesy might make future "7 Weeks" a bit more popular.

JAMES STORRIE

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Critical thinking in short supply today

CHAD
BARTSCH

In a world perpetually geared towards over-sensationalism, it should come as no surprise how people can get caught up in the flash of it all. Where the so-called *intelligent* newspapers are written at a grade-eight level and local newscasts are delivered by people more concerned about the balance in their hair than in their news stories, it's not surprising that many have lost their sense of critical thought.

The problem of decreasing levels of critical thinking is certainly a multifaceted one, and is defined in part by how children are educated about the way the world works. Ostensibly, education is something that occurs in the classroom. However, the most influential source of a child's education comes from informal sources, namely the media, in all its surreptitious forms.

By the time children reach the start of their toddler years, they will have been exposed to untold numbers of advertisements, each a barrage of falsity, informing the ill consumers what they cannot live without. For critically minded parents, this would be an ideal time to begin teaching the young ones about media literacy and discerning between fact and fiction. The unfortunate thing about this is that many adults have trouble distinguishing between the two.

Some encouraging news has to do with proposed changes to curriculum in secondary school studies, with more of an emphasis on teaching

"Some faculties on this campus seem to be prone to significantly lower levels of critical thought than others (insert your nomination here). As a result, it would seem as though this trend is destined to continue for at least one more generation, if not even longer."

skills required for critical thought and media literacy in the classroom. This is essential, as contracting a sense of media awareness creates citizens who can actually think critically.

For starters, becoming media literate is integral to understanding how corporations and governments influence the choices of citizens and consumers through various advertising mediums. This is especially true in an age where companies frequently enlist psychologists to better assist them in manipulating their target demographic for, say, the latest Mach-50 razor—you wouldn't believe it, but fifty blades do cut better than three.

Moreover, this type of thinking is not simply confined to what many would call the uneducated world. Some faculties on this campus seem to be prone to significantly lower levels of critical thought than others (insert your nomination here). As a result, it would seem as though this trend is destined to continue for at least one more generation, if not even longer.

What upsets me more than anything, though, is that when our society as a whole is faced with a collective decision, such as an election, my perception is that the majority of people shrug and let out a collective "meh."

This is especially frustrating for those of us who actually think critically about the world, not simply because of the everyday problems that go unnoticed, but because larger and more dangerous issues are being cre-

ated as a result of this ambivalence.

The most apparent example of this was the American election back in the fall. The Bush administration racked up historic trade and fiscal deficits, ballooned the bureaucracy, and went to war over false presumptions during its first four years in office. The callous use of force that the United States recently displayed has turned the world into a place where it is acceptable to attack any country, as long as you accuse them of hiding WMDs first. All the while, the docile citizens of America buy into the nationalistic rhetoric disseminated from good ol' Uncle Sam that criticizing the president is an inherently evil and un-American thing to do.

Close to home, just a few weeks ago we discovered that Ralph Klein, through his magical "Third Way," is planning on contravening tenets of the Canada Health act, even though a sizable majority of Canadians—and Albertans—are completely opposed to for-profit medicine.

Sadly, though, I doubt that we as Albertans will question this complete abuse of a mandate. In fact, I would surmise that the majority of Albertans lack the perspicacity needed to evaluate what Klein is saying. But if Alberta is to avoid a substantial shift down a dangerous path, many people who usually play the role of benchmarker are going to need to get off their comfy couches and engage their minds in some form of critical thought.

Quest for happiness can do more harm than good

PAUL
MOORE

to gain the fortune they feel they deserve, society crumbles, augmenting a growing gap between the oligarchy of the rich and the masses of struggling poor.

The blissful fulfilment of the whoring and materialistic ideals of American capitalism have put the nation in inalienable debt, brought about political misguidance, and created such global discontent that citizens of the world were willing to fly airplanes into buildings. That's the cost of a national quest for satisfaction.

However, this doesn't mean that the answer to social troubles is a dreary existence of masochism and hardship. We simply need to act based on the common good rather than personal impulses and desires. And, as Canadians, we're on our way. We are granted "peace, order and good government" by our constitution, a socially conscious approach that places the good of the community ahead of the fickle whims of the population. Canadians must use this base to continue making decisions that bring global benefit rather than fulfilling our own fleeting wishes.

So, instead of using that twosome in your pocket to buy yet another shot of rye, give it to the underprivileged person freezing outside of the bar. Get out and shovel your sidewalk, hold the door for someone, smile at an elderly person on the bus, ask the cashier at the coffee shop how his day was, or politely decline a telemarketer's offer.

Embrace the inconvenience and escape from your conceited shell to help make someone's life better. It may not make you happy, but that's not the point, now is it?

'Black' culture still as popular as ever

IAN
KITEKU

It was a cold and stormy night and I was on my way to school for a night class. As I hopped onto the bus, I noticed an adolescent male sitting at the back wearing certain attire that appeared "shady," including a shirt that illustrated the members of G-Unit. I couldn't help but investigate further. After careful observation I came to the conclusion that this young man was deaf. I then wondered how in the world this person could claim to represent G-Unit and Eminem; after all, don't they make music? The only knowledge this individual would have of the aforementioned artists would be from television or his peers. The fact of the matter was that, like most of the matter was, he was enamoured not by the music, but by the culture he associated it with.

He is part of a universal problem I like to call the "eroticism of being black." We are enclosed by a societal cave that tells us it's cool to be black. When I go to the club with my white roommate I'm approached by numerous women wishing to cut a rug. Unfortunately, my roommate does not receive as many offers. As he approaches these dancing damsels, some reply, "Sorry, I only dance with black guys." As if we are some sort of trophy.

I find it important to make the distinction between black culture and hip-hop culture. There is no such thing as black culture, just as there is no such thing as white, red, brown or yellow culture. Black is only the skin colour associated with a way of life. Furthermore, it's a way of life based on music (hip hop), not blacks as a demographic.

It reminds me of a quote by Paul Mooney on an episode of The Chappelle Show: He stated, "Everybody wants to be a nigger, but nobody wants to be a nigger."

For example, Eminem is a white rapper, but critics would call him a "nigger" due to the fact that he participates in a conceived black realm. Conversely, a black man, like myself, would not be identified with white culture for playing croquet, a predominantly British leisure activity.

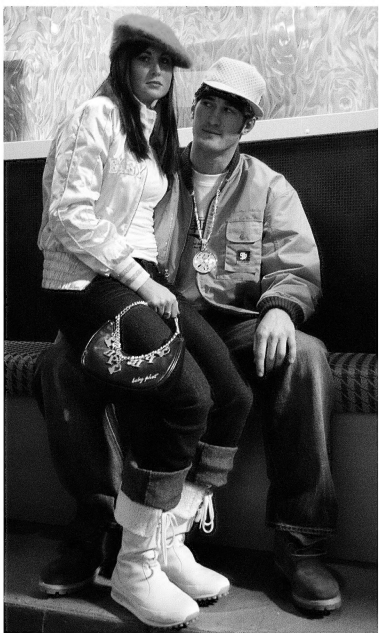
So why is every North American teenager in a Sean Jean outfit classified as acting "black"? I doubt that anyone who's ever been to Somalia would claim that the blacks there are not "real blacks" because they don't dress in baggy clothes and Crypt Walk. Nonetheless, it's imperative that we abolish this preconceived notion.

After all, my grandma is black but she doesn't "shake it like a Polarisoid picture."

The allure of being black is similar to the allure of being oppressed as adopted by punk culture. Punk music in the origins is anti-authority. Today, there exist those who wear Che Guevara T-shirts with pride but could not name the leader of government at the time of Che's revolution. Likewise, many of those who claim they are part of a larger hip-hop community couldn't name the first rap song to hit the mainstream. They walk around with baggy pants, not knowing that baggy pants came from the neglect of jail officers to provide those incarcerated with belts. Again, this is not just a problem with rap culture, but with individuals who claim such titles as feminists, communists, socialists, et cetera. They are only part of the movement to the extent to which they see fit.

It reminds me of a quote by Paul Mooney on an episode of The Chappelle Show: He stated, "Everybody wants to be a nigger, but nobody wants to be a nigger." This demonstrates how people want to be part of a culture when it is in style, such as having "homeboys." If you take the literal context of the word "nigger," however, not one person would want to be traded as a slave or marginalized by society.

In fact, this is a warning to all people, races, and colours alike. Question your conformed state, values, and especially why you recite lyrics hazily without knowing what you mean. Skeet skeet me if!



WORD: It's all part of the "eroticism of being black."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ASSAR GRIND

The best little knife fight in Stab Town

The Citadel's *West Side Story*'s focus on crowd-pleasing razzle-dazzle is as goofy as its cast of pirouetting street thugs

West Side Story

Directed by Bob Baker
Starring Mairi Babb, Pamela Gordon
and John Ulyatt
The Citadel
Now Playing

LEAH COLLINS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Somewhere, some day, somewhere, you've watched *West Side Story*. Maybe your mom plopped you in front of the Betamax to behold what she always treasured as a film classic, and you learned a very important lesson: gang violence and racism are totally hilarious.

While the play's "gritty" themes and Shakespearean tragedy-inspired story may try to convince you otherwise, *West Side Story*'s iconic choreography of prancing street thugs and its showboasty soundtrack has been set in the cultural consciousness as a sort of cheap-laugh touchstone.

Take, for instance, those Royal Rumble ads from last December, the ones featuring WWE wrestlers bellowing from technicolor rooftops about how they're "gonna rumble tonight," those "crazy cool" Gap ads of a few years back, or even the unintentional humour of Cher's one-woman production of the musical.

But *West Side Story*'s somewhat goofy legacy hasn't kept the Citadel from mounting the play as their musical offering this season. And judging from the production, they've done so with good reason. Sashaying knife-fighters might be a little ridiculous, but they've got enough razzle-dazzle to go along with their pirouetting stab-action to put people in the seats.

The Citadel's *West Side Story* does not resonate—as some stiff-necked opening night-ers might have you believe—with dark and timeless themes (though the play's basic plot of warring New York gangs—one white, one Puerto Rican—and a doomed love between a boy and girl from opposite sides, is unmistakably dramatic). It's clear from The Citadel's

painstakingly traditional approach to the play that they're aiming for no more than familiar, cruise ship-style entertainment writ Shocter Stage large.

The show opens with dancing—a slight choreographic variation on the familiar theme of high-jumping thugs. We've seen it before (even Bretta Gerecke's set of girders and fire escapes—though often strikingly inventive—is instantly recognizable *West Side* style), but it's hard not to be marginally entertained by a troupe of toughs executing endless aerial kicks.

However, there's no tension behind this spectacle, giving the first act a shaky start. And tension, if anything, is what the audience should feel from *West Side Story*: tension to establish the feud between rival gangs the Jets and Sharks; tension between the romantic leads, Tony and Maria. Without tension, the gangs can't really "rumble," despite their impressive dance steps.

There's little electricity between the lovers, too. Mairi Babb is lovely as Maria—making what's little more than a stock heroine with a Charo-o accent into an endearing genuine character. Despite the abruptness of her and Tony's romance, it's easy to believe Babb's Maria is in love. Mind you, it's not so clear that she should have fallen for Tony.

Tony's a bland enough guy on the page—despite his implied gangland history—so John Ulyatt has no enviable task in taking the lead. But always compared to Babb's understated grace, Ulyatt's Tony comes off as a schmaltzy, infatuated school boy with a tendency to lounge-singer stylize his musical numbers that's as goofy as street toughs spitting "daddy-o" peppered dialogue.

While there isn't much tension between the players, the in-house musicals, playing Leonard Bernstein's original score, thankfully do their best to make up for it. The eleven-member orchestra reminds the audience why the show has survived as it has, punctuating every moment as Bernstein's suspenseful notes jump from shadows in alleyways and backroom bars.



COURTESY OF EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

PRETTY AND WITTY AND GAY *West Side Story*'s Lady-Sharks.

But the musical punch isn't enough to make you see past the flashy street dancing and into anything that might be considered a "relevant" social issue. If this production of *West Side*

Story rings true with anything today, it's that the appeal of a crowd-pleasing song and dance is everything. And when it comes to that sort of order, twinkle-toe delinquents will do just fine.

Cardiff aims to move audiences to matrimony and/or fisticuffs

Craig Cardiff

with Strada and Robin Nash
Sidetrack Café
Wednesday, 2 February

MARK WYTIK

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Everyone wants to be a singer-songwriter. They are everywhere: a romantic army of traveling minstrel poets liberated from the demands of our workday existence. What is the reason for the ubiquity of this musical class? Singer-songwriter Craig Cardiff suggests it's just a matter of convenience.

There is a practical aspect to being a singer-songwriter," he says. "I've been around the world and I'm sitting here outside a coffee shop with a guitar and a pedal board. It's easy for me to do this, whereas it would be really hard with a full band."

From a distance he lives up to the troubadour image: Cardiff's a sensitive type with a guitar and he's also a model ultra-polite Canadian. He sings about Canada using Canadian images and Canadian pop-culture icons in his lyrics. He has played in living rooms, church basements, cafes and bars across the country. Somehow, this fondness for Canadiana earns him a wholesome image, but this is only a cover for his real agenda: riling up his audience.

"Music is a big part of what I do and what I love, but the performance and engagement with

the audience is as important and often that's not done by acting politely," he says. "The idea is that whatever art—how ever it is being delivered, whether it is a painting or a poetry reading—you should end up either on one side of the fence or the other at the end of it. If you just walk away unfazed or feeling gay, essentially you've just gone and watched a film at Famous Players, which is not what I want."

Cardiff compares himself to Andy Kaufman or Lenny Bruce and claims that his art relies on his live performance. "I like to approach shows with the idea that there is either going to be a wedding or fist fight at the end of it."

It's hard to say whether audiences will come to revel or revere Cardiff's show, but maybe that's not the important question. Considering there are so many singer-songwriters out there, why should we want to see another one? For Cardiff, the answer is that every show is different.

"I just think that the best songs are the ones that cause reflection and talk about your experience," he says. "A lot of my material touches on that and the storytelling aspect of my show is the part that I really love. It's important for me to keep that and hopefully that comes across to people who come to shows—the idea that you're not sure what's going to happen next."

Craig Cardiff

also playing SUB Stage
Wednesday, 2 February at 12pm

Don't Seek this one out

Hide and Seek

Directed by John Polson
Starring Robert De Niro, Dakota Fanning,
Famke Janssen and Elisabeth Shue
Now Playing

MICHAEL LAROOCUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Hide and Seek is the type of thriller that will leave you in a panicked, questioning state, wondering whether Robert De Niro will ever make a decent film again.

De Niro plays New York City shrink David Callaway, a dotting father and recent widower. His wife has committed suicide in their bathtub and his otherwise cheery daughter Emily (Dakota Fanning) turns creepy and stoic after seeing her mother's dead body. Deciding that a change of scenery is the best thing for Emily, David packs up and moves to a half-deserted town in upstate New York.

It sounds like a decent idea, but out in the country, Emily is still equally miserable—that is, until she meets Charlie.

Charlie is Emily's imaginary friend. He not only plays hide and seek with her but he also becomes her partner in crime, helping her taunt David more and more until her escapades escalate from petty vandalism to violence. Believing his daughter incapable of committing such acts, David starts to wonder if perhaps one of the mysterious town-folk could really be the unseen Charlie.

The story's as childish as, well, a game of

hide and seek, and it's not difficult to discover the culprits responsible for the movie's weaknesses. Director John Polson's last entry on a very short CV is the questionably thrilling *Swimfan*, and along with first-time screenwriter Ari Schlossberg, the blame for this monstrosity of a horror flick is on the shoulders of those behind the camera.

The main characters are thinly drawn with little motivation, leaving the audience only mildly invested in their safety and well-being. Without any emotional investment, it's difficult to get riled up over the thought of Dakota Fanning being kidnapped or empathize with De Niro's inability to console his daughter after her mother's death.

Moreover, the "creepy" townspeople go so over the top with shady stares and ominous, innuendo-filled mutterings that they might as well be carrying giant neon signs reading, "Hey! I'm a smokescreen!"

And not to spoil the film, but the mandatory "twist" ending of this movie is not so much a shock as it is—along with most of the other "surprising" elements of the movie—an anti-climactic unveiling of what you'll likely discover on your own about halfway through the show.

To its credit, *Hide and Seek* isn't the worst horror movie out there, but without any violence or shocking, jump-out-of-your-seat moments to get the audience excited on even a superficial, if not psychological, level, *Hide and Seek* falls short by being only a mildly interesting character drama. *Hide and Seek* should never have been let out to play.


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I GOT A FEVER, AND THE ONLY CURE IS MORE COWBELL: All-Purpose Voltage Heroes' Dan Poole.

Gospel truth: The Hidden Cameras are awesome

CHURCHY/LAROCK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The two gals in the band held their own; Magali Meagher on the drums stole some attention by making funny faces and Maggie MacDonald—dressed in a yellow mini-dress—manned the xylophone with the feistiness of the Yeah Yeah Yeah's Karen O. It was clear that the band was having just as much, if not more fun than the crowd watching their irreverent stage antics (at one memorable moment at the end of "Day is Dawning," every member crashed down to the ground as if they were dead).

... imitating The Hidden Cameras would be like blasphemy. They own their mod-rock sound, controversial lyrics and oozing sensuality like a pair of well-worn jeans.

Local group The Faunts opened the show with their moody, ambient rock. Although not quite fitting with the sugar rush of The Hidden Cameras, they still managed to perform their songs as if it was a high-speed chase. Each one started off leisurely and slowly, building to a crash of bass, guitar, keys and drums. Their music's perfectly written and executed, but for

the fans waiting for The Hidden Cameras, The Faunts' subdued stage presence and heavy material couldn't compare.

What The Faunts lacked in personality the kids of The All-Purpose Voltage Heroes made up for with their schizophrenic stage antics and makeshift equipment. Using salvaged ironing boards to hold their keyboards, the messy four-piece punk outfit exploded onto the stage, where lead singer Dan Poole shook his scrawny ass. Watching him jump all over the stage, toss the mic stand above his head and jam with a tiny red toy piano-guitar was hilarious. It's a good thing that they're just out of high school; these boys need plenty of free time to work on their sound. The band has potential and charisma to spare, but the only highlight from their set of choppy, irritating faux Alexionfire songs was a techno-infused cover of Nintendo theme music.

The young punks of The All-Purpose Voltage Heroes could learn plenty from The Hidden Cameras' ragtag team of gay marauders. For starters, they could pick up the art of playing a guitar with one hand while holding a bottle of beer in the other. But that's about all they should try, because imitating The Hidden Cameras would be like blasphemy. They own their mod-rock sound, controversial lyrics and oozing sexuality like a pair of well-worn jeans, and if their latest performance in Edmonton is any indication, they'll be spreading the good word to the cool kids for a long time to come.

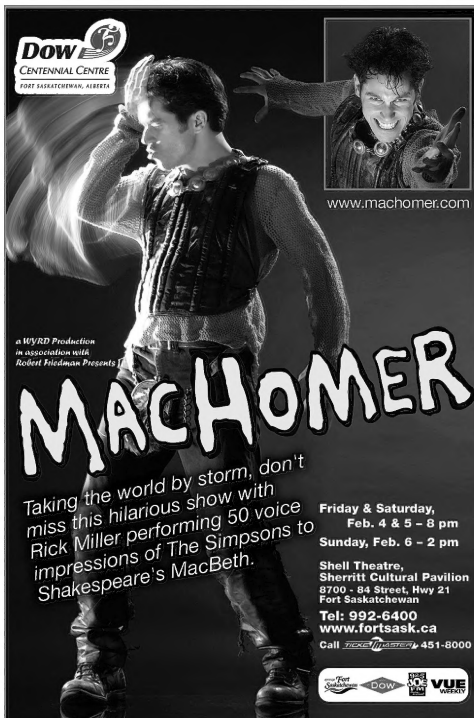
To clarify: the droning rock anthems slowly drain your interest, making you head for the door, or rather making you want to chuck the record out the door.

While listening to the album, you can't help but come to the conclusion that someone in this band has been dised and disoriented. Lyrics like "you won't remember how you raped my life" and "you're pretending to be something you're not" / you're collecting a head full of rot" are just two searing examples of the record's vengeful motif.

With obvious influences from bands like Foo Fighters and the Stone Temple Pilots, The Exies seem to be good at regurgitating the sounds and styles of other, better musicians.

Even their band's name is a borrowed term used by John Lennon to describe existentialist art students. Sorry guys—you don't quite fall into that category.

So, if you stumble across a copy of *Head for the Door* somewhere on the sidewalk, you'll know how it got there.



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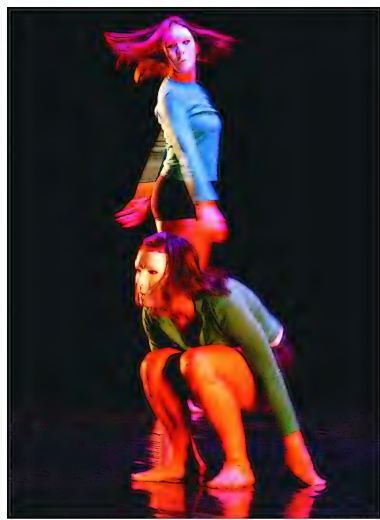


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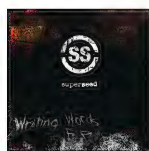
YING-YING LEE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The first song on The Exies' newest album, *Head for the Door*, is entitled "Slow Drain."

Those two titles really should embody your feelings about this CD if you ever give it a listen.



LORDS OF THE MASK Orchestras performers present *Ragdoll*, an eerie original work, at the modern dance group's 40th annual *Dance Motif*. **LEANNE FONG**



Superspeed
Writing Words
Hivesound Records
www.superspeed.ca

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sometimes it seems like you'd hear a lot more about a band had they not formed in the geographically isolated netherworld of music that is Edmonton, Alberta.

Such is the case of *Superspeed*, a local four-piece that rocks a lot harder than they apparently get credit for. Their latest album, *Writing Words*, is a blend of harder rock with conventional sensibilities from a group that can sing, drum, and play guitar without going overboard and killing a track. Songs like "My Old Life" and "Grace Us" especially stand out as successes, but the entire eight-song record leaves you feeling like you should be hearing more about this band.

What's more is that *Superspeed* managed to produce their sophomore effort just a year after their debut, while avoiding the all-too-often-seen trap of rushing an inferior recording to the market. For all the raving, *Writing Words* is arguably nothing that we haven't heard before, but for a local band's second album, it's pretty damn good.



Various Artists
Head in the Sand Records and Friends
Head in the Sand Records
www.headinthedance.ca

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Don't be fooled by their name, because the folks at *Winnipeg's* Head in the Sand Records are much more aware of the Canadian music scene than their title might suggest. After listening to their first compilation record of affiliated artists it's clear that, with their ears so close to the ground, they've been able to recognize and sign some of the most talented artists to come out of Western Canada.

On a record that's dominated by male acts, it's the chicks that stand out. Although Darren Day's "Anne" might be the only song ready for mainstream radio, it's Christine Bellows' piano-driven "Roadkill" and Rachel Ries' ode to Gillian Welch, "Mercy," that show the most artistic maturity.

Two Edmonton-based artists making the cut, but Jen Kraatz's thumping, rocky "Square" outshines The Swifty's "Misty," a twangy, countrified ballad about a small-town tease.

The range of hometown Canadian talent makes *Head in the Sand Records* and *Friends* must be for any fan of blues, rock, roots, country and/or folk.

Great story, graphics and zombies make *Resident Evil 4* for any fan of the franchise

Resident Evil 4
Nintendo GameCube
Capcom Entertainment
Now available
Rated Mature

EDMON ROTEJA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There aren't many things as thrilling as battling computer-generated zombies, which is probably why the *Resident Evil* franchise is already on its fourth installment.

But *Resident Evil 4* has more than undead beasts to its credit. The game features beautifully realized graphics, smooth controls and a story that's a more engaging thriller than anything the series has brought to the big screen.

In *Resident Evil 4*, you play Leon Kennedy, an American government agent sent on a rescue mission to central Europe. Leon must find and rescue Ashley—the teenage daughter of the President of the United States—who has been abducted by a mysterious cult.

But Leon becomes infected with a virus that's transforming the local villagers into homicidal maniacs, forcing Leon to find an antidote before he too suffers the same fate.

Leon must fight his way through hordes of homicidal villagers, demonic monks, mutated animals and unstoppable giant creatures. Fortunately, he



is aided by allies: Luis Sera, a mysterious stranger who knows the cult's evil plans and Ada Wong, a rival agent sent to retrieve a sample of the virus.

The game's frightening yet immersive atmosphere entices gamers to play on. The environments in *Resident Evil 4* are rendered in real-time and feature richly detailed objects. From the splinters of broken wood to the inner-workings of a complex clock tower, the intricately detailed environments are impressive.

Resident Evil 4's intuitive game play is equally remarkable. Past games in the series were often plagued by awkward control schemes; moving the onscreen characters felt like maneuvering a tank. *Resident Evil 4*, however, has a third-person "behind-the-shoulder" perspective, allowing for easier execution of Leon's many movements.

Besides having the ability to punch, kick and engage in hand-to-hand combat, Leon also has an assortment of weapons at his disposal, ranging from a simple handgun to a powerful rocket launcher. Weapons can also be bought, sold or upgraded via the game's "Merchant," a reappearing character who sells items to Leon.

When Leon is not battling crazed cult members, he encounters dozens of challenging logic puzzles of varying difficulty. The puzzles add to the diverse game play but sometimes they become too tedious to solve, slowing the game's pace.

Fortunately, the game is easy to play and will most likely appeal to both old and new players of the series. And considering its impressive graphics, ease of control, and diverse game play, *Resident Evil 4* is a standout of the franchise.

Sony repeating history with new console



DANIEL KASZOR

"Already, reports from the Japanese launch of the PlayStation Portable system are full of warning signs. Some systems reportedly have 'dead pixels' in their screens. And all of the systems can be twisted in a certain way to make the game disc shoot out at high velocity."

In March, prepare for Sony history to repeat itself. The electronics company is set to release its new portable video-game system, the PlayStation Portable. It looks cool, the graphics are sweet, and it plays MP3s.

However, don't think of buying one—just yet, anyway. Simply put, Sony has a terrible history of releasing first-generation hardware; their track record is full of painful design and technical errors.

It started with the original PlayStation. The machine, which came out in 1995, was rife with problems. The most notable one was the small piece of metal that the CD laser rode on would wear out rather quickly, making for choppy video and many a crashed game. And while users tried to solve the problem by flipping their PlayStations upside down or hand-replacing the laser, Sony didn't officially iron this problem out until at least 1998.

But the errors weren't behind them by the time of the PlayStation 2's 2000 release. The first generation of PS2 sys-

tems had a tendency to give "disc read error" messages after six months or so. This error made it difficult or impossible to use DVDs or certain types of games with the system. The problem was, for the most part, fixed with a hardware revision in mid-2001. As for those stuck with first-run consoles, most were left with close to inoperable systems and a choice between paying Sony \$175 for repairs or keeping a \$400 paper weight around the house.

The problem was so bad and happened so frequently that Sony was served with a class action lawsuit which they subsequently lost. Now, the company is obligated to fix PS2s with "disc read error" problems for free.

Which brings us to Sony's newest system, the PlayStation Portable. Already, reports from the Japanese launch of the system are full of warning signs.

Some systems reportedly have "dead pixels" in their screens. And all of the systems can be twisted in a certain

way to make the game disc shoot out at high velocity.

The most notable problem is that one of the buttons on the face of the machine is less responsive than the rest because it's near the unit's screen. Sony Computer Entertainment President Ken Kutaragi has even gone on record acknowledging the issue, saying it was a design choice, even though almost one per cent of systems shipped have been returned because of problems with the button.

This doesn't even factor in problems that might crop up right after the 90-day warranty expires like the PS2's disc-read error snafu.

This isn't to say that the PSP will be a bad system. In fact, all reports point to it being a good-looking little multi-purpose device with lots of cool games set to come down the pipe. It's just that it probably isn't worth paying for something that might break in six months, especially when another version with all the engineering kinks worked out is probably coming out in a year or so.



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Faded stars Slater, Reid and Dorff
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Directed by Uwe Boll

Starring Christian Slater, Tara Reid, and Stephen Dorff
Now Playing

YING-YING LEE

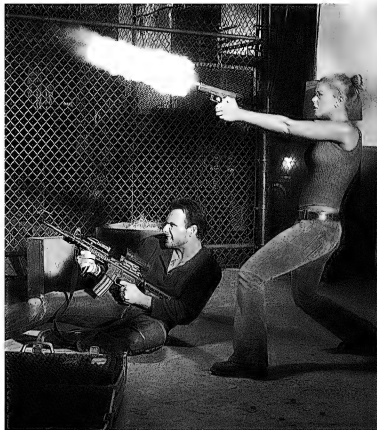
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Considering the history of failure that has followed movies based on video games—be it *Mortal Kombat*, *Final Fantasy*, or *Super Mario Brothers*—you could say that 32-bit technology just doesn't translate well to the big screen. But such an excuse is too easy on the latest videogame flick, *Alone in the Dark*. This movie isn't just bad because it's based on a game; it's a bad movie, period.

... it's difficult to distinguish what is more absurd: Christian Slater playing an action hero or Tara Reid as an educated archeologist (something apparent only because of Reid's Brainy Smurf glasses).

Alone in the Dark's suck-factor should be immediately obvious from its cast: three Hollywood wash-ups. Christian Slater stars as Edward Carnby, a former orphan who has committed his life to the investigation of paranormal events. He's joined by Tara Reid as Aline Cedrac, an archeologist specializing in decoding ancient Aboriginal artifacts.

Together they attempt to uncover a mystery surrounding the abrupt appearance of numerous hideously vicious beasts. The result is a story that's a cross between *Village of the Damned* and *Alien*, with, thanks to Miss Reid, an added hint of

*American Pie*.

The terrible trio is completed with Stephen Dorff as a special government agent investigating the same strange occurrences. He's inexplicably hostile toward Edward—adding a touch of conflict—but other than that, he offers very little to the film.

Throughout the movie it's difficult to distinguish what is more absurd: Christian Slater playing an action hero or Tara Reid as an educated archeologist (something apparent only because of Reid's Brainy Smurf glasses). Watching Slater kicking the bad guy's ass is like seeing your grandma hip-hop dancing: it's terribly wrong yet ridiculously hilarious.

But what's even worse is the complete lack of chemistry between the two. An awkward love scene—which seems to have been haphazardly thrown into the film—is excruciat-

ing. Even more unbelievable are the film's action sequences where the trio attempts to kill monsters with some heavy fire-spitting artillery. Reid totting a machine gun? That's even more preposterous than her character's high IQ.

A complete lack of character development and a meaningless storyline make it impossible to care about what is going to happen next. As well, the hefty use of extras in somewhat important roles creates a sense of detachment.

Granted, the film has one highlight: its use of sound. With the arrival of the beasts comes a loud and unexpected howl that'll make you leap from your seat. Spooky as the sound effects are, you can rest assured that (spoiler!) Christian Slater makes it out all right. Mind you, it's hard to say the same of his career.

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Leslie Macklin
Third-Year
Canadian Student

Although it's surprisingly common and treatable, our society places a powerful stigma on those with schizophrenia. Gillian Leschasin takes a look at the realities of those living with a forbidden illness.



Anything but crazy

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Former University of Manitoba student Arun Sud was a bright, intelligent, well-spoken fourth-year medical student when he attended the school in his 20s. He was also athletic and often described as one of those people who had the world at his fingertips. But later in life he was diagnosed with schizophrenia, a mental illness that affects one in every 100 people worldwide and in Canada.

According to the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, people from all walks of life can be affected by schizophrenia, and the onset typically occurs sometime during adolescence or young adulthood.

The mental illness is difficult to define given its complexities and because it affects people in many different ways. In their booklet *The Truth About Schizophrenia*, the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society starts off by defining it as "a neurobiological illness, in the same medical cluster as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's." The illness affects the "orderliness" of the mind, making it difficult for the person to distinguish what is real and what is not.

Chris Summerville, executive director of the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, compares the brain disorder to a computer with a virus—the affected

person typically has difficulty processing commands and actions. The illness can affect the five senses, thinking patterns, judgment, behaviour and "executive skills" like memory and decision-making.

Arun's sister Gita says she felt her brother had become somewhat tentative, and gives an example of how her family had to be encouraging and sometimes persistent in making sure he would follow up on appointments. Summerville attributes Arun's cautiousness to the deterioration in executive skills. For a person living with schizophrenia, performing tasks like taking a bus or registering for a university class can become difficult.

Scientists are not completely sure what causes schizophrenia, but some factors believed to be linked to the disorder include genetics, birth trauma and chemical imbalance in the brain. There is a

ten to 15 per cent risk of inheriting the illness if a parent or sibling has schizophrenia, and a 40 per cent risk if both parents have it. Another theory says a viral infection during the second trimester of pregnancy could be passed on from mother to child, thereby affecting brain development.

Environment also plays a role in the onset of the illness, as stressful situations tend to trigger it, says Summerville. Drug and alcohol abuse are also listed as a possible contributing factors, but there is a distinction between schizophrenia and drug- or alcohol-induced psychosis, which is temporary. Psychosis refers to the hallucinations, voices or delusions people with the mental illness experience; 70 per cent of all psychoses are diagnosed as some form of schizophrenia.

Summerville explains that when a person has schizophrenia, it means something has been added to the brain, like a hallucination or delusion, while something else has been removed, which can range from memory loss to the inability to enjoy pleasure. The symptoms a person with schizophrenia experiences are numerous and highly individualistic, further adding to the complexity of the illness.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Many of those living with schizophrenia are able to live outside of a hospital bed and function successfully in society. With early detection and medication, recovery is possible. In fact, 70 per cent of those diagnosed with the illness do recover.

STOPPING STIGMAS

Gita describes the changes in her brother as being quite dramatic. Her family observed how her typically extroverted brother had become soft-spoken and withdrawn while living with the mental illness. Contrary to popular opinions about the behaviour of those diagnosed with schizophrenia, he was never violent or aggressive and spoke quite articulately. Gita says her brother, who passed away earlier this year, was not a "typical" patient, and argues the stereotypes associated with mental illnesses, particularly schizophrenia, are incorrect.

"An illness manifests itself in any number of different ways, like when you get a physical illness ... there's not really one way it comes out," she says. It's hard to shake the societal image of a person living with schizophrenia when words with negative connotations like "nuts," "psycho," "crazy" and "wacko" are so quickly associated with the illness. Summerville says schizophrenia is the most serious mental illness and that some of the strongest stigmas are attached to it as a result.

"Stigmas are the result of a lack of understanding plus lack of experience in dealing with a person with schizophrenia, multiplied by fear ... Stigma is how we respond to people we don't understand," he explains. "As a society, we're not comfortable around people who are different ... We all fear the unknown, it's normal."

Stigma is detrimental to those living with schizophrenia or other mental illnesses because it often leads to discrimination. A recent example of discrimination occurred when the Liberal party put a statement on its website saying individuals interested in running for a position must declare if they have either bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. According to Summerville, several mental-health organizations, including the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, told the political party that the declaration was discriminatory and perpetuated stereotypes; the statement was removed within 24 hours.

On a day-to-day basis, those living with schizophrenia can experience discrimination when searching for jobs or adequate housing. Summerville says funding for mental-illness services can also be harder to come by than funding for physical health-care, because mental-health problems are invisible. As a result of the stigmas and the discrimination that inevitably accompanies with them, those living with the illness may experience a drop in quality of life and self-esteem, along with other problems.

"There is a lot of shame around mental illness," says Gita. "It probably drives the person into a bit more isolation. It probably drives the family into isolation, so at the very moments that you need support in life and that person needs support, one can probably become more isolated because of the shame."

Some people may initially experience fear or nervousness if they happen to observe a person with schizophrenia talking or cursing to nobody in particular or exhibiting fits and involuntary muscle movements. However, those characteristics are side effects of the drugs used to treat schizophrenia or a result of improper use of the medication, not a result of the illness itself.

"The problem with anti-psychotics is they're some of the most powerful drugs in the world," says Summerville. "The goal of the medication is to restore the [brain's] chemical balance ... so that there are less symptoms [of schizophrenia]. The thing about these medications is that [the combination of them is] very individualized. You have to find the right medication for the right cluster of symptoms and hope that it's going to work with that person. And then you have to deal with the side effects ... What you may be seeing are probably the side effects of the medication, not the schizophrenia."

Others may have a misconception that people living with schizophrenia are violent, which is a stereotype perpetuated by the media, says

Summerville. In reality, there are very few people with schizophrenia who act out in violence.

"They generally have a history of drug and alcohol abuse. They have a volatile personality or temperament and they generally have a hard-formed case of schizophrenia in which they're not taking medication. Now are there people who have a volatile personality and who do drugs and commit crimes? Yes. So it's not just the schizophrenia on its own, yet people will read the paper and think, 'Oh, they're schizophrenic, so lock them up,'" he says.

Horror or "psycho-thriller" movie characters like Freddy Krueger have also created the image that those living with schizophrenia must be institutionalized for life since they are dangerous and cannot function in society. The Manitoba Schizophrenia Society says this assumption is incorrect. Many of those living with schizophrenia are able to live outside of a hospital bed and function successfully in society. With early detection and medication, recovery is possible. In fact, 70 per cent of those diagnosed with the illness do recover.

"Recovery is about learning how to view yourself as a person and not the illness ... Every person that I see and work with and deal with—I believe the potential for recovery is there," says Summerville.

INVISIBLE BARRIERS

If you or a loved one is diagnosed tomorrow with schizophrenia or another mental illness, where would you go? Who would you turn to? And how quickly could you get help? These are some of the difficult questions those dealing with the mental-healthcare system must think about, and, according to Summerville, it's not an easy system to navigate. Wait times to see a psychiatrist are around three to six months, and there is no handy section in the Yellow Pages to point you in the right direction for other assistance.

Most mental-health services are now community-based instead of being inside an institution. While Summerville prefers seeing those diagnosed with schizophrenia or other mental illnesses living outside of institutions, he says the funding for resources like mental-healthcare workers, adequate housing, support programs and other services are not near this is to get educated.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is a non-profit organization that tries to fill some of these voids and help those with mental illnesses live successfully in society through their rehabilitation program. The program provides assistance based on an individual's need to meet goals like finding adequate housing, gaining employment or getting involved in the community.

Laurel McPherson, manager of education and information services for CMHA's Winnipeg region, says applicants typically enter the program several months after their diagnosis and after indicating their commitment to the program.

"What we're trying to do is help people build a long-term, stable situation, so that, for example, say around housing, they're not just moving from one place to another that doesn't meet their needs," she explains. "We're trying to assist people to find out what it is they really need and want so that there is more stability and success for themselves."

Success in university is also possible for those who have schizophrenia. The CMHA has released a guide for college and university students with psychiatric disabilities. The guide, titled *Your Education—Your Future*, is a comprehensive look at how to succeed with a mental illness in an academic environment.

According to CMHA, the guide is based on information gathered from colleges and universities across Canada, and features first-hand experiences and advice from students with psychiatric disabilities who were willing to share their perspectives of the rewards and challenges of higher education.

Among other things, the guide recommends that students get in touch with their university's disability services office and find out what services—

ranging from arranging counselling and academic concessions to providing support—are available to them.

Sixty-nine students with psychiatric disabilities registered with the University of Manitoba's Disability Services last year, says Janalee Morris-Wales, the office's coordinator. And the number of those registering with diagnosed mental-health problems increases every year.

Morris-Wales explains that success is measured individually for students with schizophrenia or other mental illnesses and disorders. For some, attending class and successfully completing one course is an achievement. For others, success means taking a full course load and graduating with honours, she says.

By registering with Disability Services, students with mental-health problems can receive assistance with registration and take advantage of priority registration. Students with disabilities register for classes first in order to schedule around their needs, which might include making sure their schedule is free at certain times to attend doctor appointments or that classes are scheduled at a time when their medication will have started working.

For those needing some extra help—such as asking for an extension from a professor or requesting an automatic withdrawal in a course when there are significant struggles with the mental illness—Disability Services also plays a role in advocating for those accommodations.

"A really big barrier is the fact that [mental illnesses] are invisible. People are much more likely to make accommodations for someone where they can see what the problem is. There's a lot of stigma attached," says Morris. "I think people with mental-health disabilities face a number of barriers to equal access, and they have enough to do without having to take on all of the advocacy roles themselves ... Why should they be punished for being sick?"

TIME TO GET EDUCATED

Ultimately, what mental-health organizations and those struggling with mental illnesses want is for people to overcome any prejudices they may have and understand the realities and struggles people have with these invisible illnesses. And the best way to go about this is to get educated.

CMHA is committed to educating the public about mental health and mental illnesses. Workshops and seminars on mental illness are often provided for adults who aren't trained in the mental-healthcare profession but who might have to deal with the mentally ill in their jobs.

"Apparently research shows that the best education is when people connect with someone who has dealt with a mental illness and they hear that personal story," says McPherson.

The Manitoba Schizophrenia Society also holds workshops to help break stigmas and get people to understand the illness—sessions which people closely related to those living with schizophrenia find particularly helpful.

But McPherson says there is still more work to do in eliminating the stigmas related to mental illness.

"I'd say there's probably been some improvement in terms of stigma that people feel, but only in some areas. I think with depression or anxiety we've reduced the stigma in those areas," says McPherson. "But I think we've had less success in decreasing stigma in things like schizophrenia because it's still a very complex, difficult illness to understand."

Chances are that if you are not diagnosed with a mental illness, you will probably know at least one person who is. The Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health says one in five Canadians is likely to experience a diagnosable mental illness, three per cent of Canadians are likely to have to live with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia. With such a high number of people affected, it's clear that the prevalence of mental illnesses today cannot be ignored, and neither can the stigmas attached to them.

Feature by Gillian Leschisin
Illustration by Paul Kim

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(University of Manitoba)



VICTORY SLIDE The Regina Cougars tripped up Pandas forward Taryn Fjeld, but it didn't slow down the Alberta squad, who won two weekend matches by scores of 7-1 and 4-0.

Cougars' attack decalved by hockey Pandas

Seventh-ranked Regina's thoughts of upsetting the unbeaten Pandas quickly unravel thanks to Alberta's power-play attack

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

The Regina Cougars women's hockey team came into Edmonton hoping to mark Clare Drake Arena as their territory, but in the end all they were able to lay claim to was the penalty box.

Regina (8-7-1) held its own in the early going of two weekend games against the undefeated Pandas (16-0-0), but got into penalty trouble leading to Alberta power-play goals that opened the floodgates as the Pandas went on to win 7-1 on Friday and 4-0 on Saturday. Two of Alberta's Friday goals and all four goals on Saturday came on the power play.

"We came out flat," said Cougars head coach Sarah Howland after Friday's loss. "We didn't get the start we should have, and that definitely hurt

us. We can't come out kind of half-assed and expect to beat this team."

Pandas blueliner Jill Cimillar opened the scoring at 13:32 of the first period on Friday, then right-winger Kaye London scored the game-winning goal 1:26 later to knock the wind out of Regina's sails. Saturday, the Cougars held on three minutes longer, but once again two quick goals, this time 1:29 apart, set the tone for the remainder of the game.

"That's key. When we get that first goal, we really build on that; it just creates that psychological momentum that we thrive on, and Regina's probably the same," said Pandas head coach Howie Draper. "They're probably used to being up on teams at the start, and it seemed like they sagged a little bit after they were scored on."

While the Cougars have the second-best offense in Canada West—15 goals better than the third-place Manitoba Bisons—the Pandas defense did a superb job of stifling the Regina attack. In fact, the only Cougars goal of the weekend was put in the net by Cimillar, who accidentally deflected a shot by Regina captain Kelsey Rezanoff past Pandas goaltender Andrea Thomas.

"I don't think that we saw Regina's best, in all honesty," said Draper. "I don't know what it was, but they were flat [Friday], and they showed flashes [Saturday], but I still think they generally didn't seem like the team that they usually are."

"We probably go against them the same way they go against us, in that we look forward to playing them because they'll give us a good game," added Pandas forward Kristen Hagg, who

had a goal and five assists in the series. "When they come out flat it's kind of unexpected."

Regina may not have given the Pandas as strong a challenge as was expected, but regardless, the Pandas' power-play performance—they were 2-3 on the power play in Friday's game and 4-5 on Saturday—was impressive, which Draper was pleased to see after the attack fizzled against Manitoba last weekend.

With the win, the Pandas stretched their overall unbeaten streak against postsecondary opponents to 112 games (111-0-1), and their streak against CIS opponents to 97 games (96-0-1).

U of A student and biathlete returns home from Universiade

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

When Russell Bird watched Meriam Bedard win two gold medals in biathlon at the 1994 Winter Olympics, he knew it was something he wanted to do. Eleven years later Bird realized that goal, representing his country and the University of Alberta as the only athlete from the U of A's main campus at the Winter Universiade in Innsbruck, Austria last month.

"The idea that it combines the absolute physicality of a top athlete with a strong mental concentration and putting the two together is something that not everyone can do," said Bird

of his sport, which combines cross-country skiing with target shooting.

After a disappointing failure at qualifying for the World Junior Championships, Bird transferred from Augustana Faculty in Camrose, which has a strong biathlon program, to Edmonton in order to pursue a law degree. With that change came a shift in focus for Bird, who scaled back the intensity of his training and set a new goal to reach the Universiade.

"If you fall and hear a snap, you pray it's your leg and not your pole."

BIATHLETE RUSSELL BIRD, ON THE FINANCIAL DEMANDS OF HIS SPORT

"I aspire to maybe be like [national biathlon champion] Robin Clegg one day, but to follow his training regime of 900-1000 hours a year is unrealistic as a full-time student," explained Bird, who instead trains 400-500 hours a year shooting, skiing, running and roller-skiing. "The big gap forms between me and the national team athletes because they don't work, they don't go to school, they just race and train. I don't want to be 30 years old, go to the Olympics and then decide to stop and have nothing, because that's essentially what I would do to myself if I went into biathlon full-time. I'd rather have an education and see where biathlon takes me through that, and come out with a degree."

Canada had a poor showing at the Universiade, only winning one medal, a factor Bird—whose best individual finish was 41st in the 20km race,

and who was part of Canada's eighth-place team in the 4x7.5km relay—blames on the treatment of athletes in this country.

"It's not a level playing field," he said. "Almost every athlete from Poland goes to the Academy of Physical Education and they study their sport. Some countries bring athletes taking one course or athletes who registered then dropped, or they see it as a training opportunity and not a true university games. Canada has really strict standards; you have to be taking three courses and have to have a letter from the registrar saying that you are a student."

Biathlon is a financially demanding sport. Broken poles, skis, and rifles are very real factors for the athletes to deal with, and often they don't have the money to replace equipment.

"If you fall and hear a snap, you pray it's your leg and not your pole," said Bird. "If I had the opportunity to race, and my money doing it, I would, in a second. I wish Canada could put more money into biathlon and sport, but we have other priorities, like cattle. I think they could find more money for amateur sport. ... We don't support our athletes and those athletes who are at the top suffer unless they have sponsorship deals. That's the only way to survive."

Since he's now completed his goal of competing at the Universiade, Bird is unsure of how hard he wants to pursue biathlon in the future.

"Now that I've done it, I'm at a crossroads. I'm not sure if I want to keep going in the sport. It's an expensive sport that's hard to stay in and it takes up a lot of my time. It might be more fun just to stop doing it competitively, start coaching or just start touring, doing the Alberta Cup. ... It would be really fun to coach some kids and maybe get them up to a world level."

HOW THEY DID

The U of A was represented at the Winter Universiade by one athlete from the main campus and ten from Augustana Faculty, plus biathlete Marcia Reinhardt, a former U of A student now attending Oxford University. Here's selected results for the twelve:

Biathlon

Russell Bird	Individual 20km: 41st Individual 10km: 47th Individual 12.5km: 45th 4x7.5km Relay: 8th
Marcia Reinhardt	Individual 15km: 24th 3x6km Relay: 7th
Annik Levesque	Individual 15km: 35th
Ella Mawdsley	Individual 20km: 41st Individual 15km: 38th
Brinna Robertson-More	Individual 10km: 42nd Individual 15km: 30th 12.5km Mass Start: 27th
Jyette Apel	3x6km Relay: 7th Individual 15km: 32nd 3x6km Relay: 7th
James Masters	Individual 20km: 37th 4x7.5km Relay: 8th
Matt Rance	Individual 20km: 40th 4x7.5km Relay: 8th
Roddy Ward	Individual 20km: 42nd
Michael McGinley	Individual 12.5km: 48th

Cross-Country Skiing

Carl Skinstad	Sprint: 48th Individual 10km: 50th 4x10km Relay: 11th
Marcia Birkigt	30km Mass Start: 53rd Sprint: 69th Individual 15km: 64th 15km Mass Start: 42nd



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Volleyball Bears overpower Dinos in weekend sweep

ANDREW REINFREE
Sports Writer

Maybe the presence of the U of A dance team performing during the sets on Friday night spurred the Golden Bears volleyball team to win both games this weekend over the Calgary Dinos. Maybe it was the classic hits like "Eye of the Tiger," and "We Will Rock You" playing over the Main Gym sound system that drove the Bears to victory. In all likelihood, though, the top-ranked Bears swept the ninth-ranked Dinos, improving their record to 15-1, simply because the Bears are a better team.

"If you look at math, the outcome of us winning was probably expected by most people. I thought that it went a little smoother than I had planned, but that's a good thing some days," said Bears head coach Terry Danyluk. He added that the Battle of Alberta between the volleyball clubs has not always been in the Bears' favour.

"In the years when I started [coaching], Calgary was in the same boat [Alberta is in now]. When they were a dominant program they had a lot of international-level players ... and that makes a big difference," said Danyluk. "Now Calgary is in a situation where they don't have a lot of those guys."

Dinos head coach Greg Ryan was frustrated with his team's play this weekend, particularly with their passing game, which he simply called "crappy." Ryan's team has earned a berth in the CIS national championship tournament the last five years, but the disappointing results this weekend dropped the Dinos' record to 4-12, last in the Mountain Division, and pushed their playoff hopes to the brink of extinction. The 20-year Dinos coach didn't take comfort in the fact that his team lost to the best volleyball squad in the country.

"I don't like losing. I don't care who it's to," said Ryan. "We didn't play very well. The people that need to pass didn't pass."

The sweep of the Dinos in six straight sets (25-17, 25-20, and 25-19 on Friday, then 25-15, 25-14, and 25-10 on Saturday) continued the Bears' practice of sweeping each opponent they play this season. The only real difference between this weekend's



LEANNE PONG

IMPENETRABLE WALL The Bears were dominant in two sweeps of the Dinos.

matches and previous Bears victories was the play of libero Justin Wong, who led his team with seven digs on Saturday night. Wong is the shortest player on the squad by five inches and the only Bear under six feet tall, but his defensive abilities have earned him increased playing time in recent competitions.

"[Justin has] been playing really solid, pretty much error-free. He's got a good court presence and we've always known he was a great defender," said Danyluk, adding that Wong has "shown some great improvement" in

the last few weeks.

Wong also received the Northern Alberta Volleyball Club (NAVC) Player Development Award before the opening serve Saturday night. The award comes with a \$500 scholarship, and is given to a university-level volleyball player who went through the NAVC program and demonstrates excellence both on the court and academically.

"Justin spent a long time in that [NAVC] program and is doing very well academically," Danyluk said. "I think he's really well-deserving of the honour."

Hoops Bears protest controversial loss in Brandon

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

Golden Bears basketball head coach Don Horwood has officially protested Sunday's controversial 77-76 loss to the Brandon Bobcats after two Alberta points weren't registered on the official score sheet by Brandon's scorekeeper.

"They missed a basket by Scott Gordon," Horwood said.

With less than eight minutes left in the game, Gordon's layup should have

made the score 64-60. But the next time Horwood saw the scoreboard, it said his team only had 58 points. "I talked to the ref," Horwood said. "He came to me and said, 'The score was 64-60 and now we've only got 58.' He told me he remembered that and he went over to the scorer's table and said, 'No, the official score has it as 58.' I asked him if we could check on that and he said, 'No, we go by the official scoreboard; that's it.'"

Horwood has protested the loss,

saying that the scorer's error is shown on a videotape of the game and that the tape has been passed along to the Canada West commissioner.

"The referees who viewed the tape after the game have confirmed that we scored those points and they weren't credited to us," Horwood said. "Now it's up to the league commission and committee to decide what they're going to do."

A decision is expected by noon today.

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THE GATEWAY

Edmonton-born Dino comes back to help bite volleyball Pandas

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

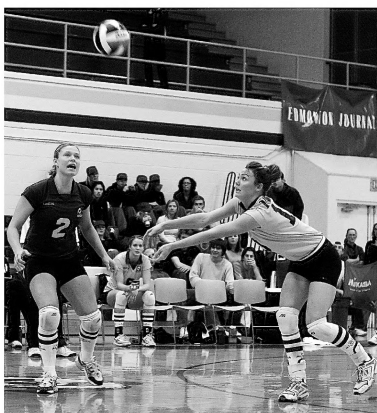
The Pandas weren't on the court for a good time this weekend, but they certainly were on it for a long time as they faced the defending national champion and top-ranked Calgary Dinos in two marathon matches that went to five sets before the Dinos emerged victorious.

On Friday night the Pandas squandered a 2-0 lead and lost in five sets (18-25, 23-25, 25-23, 25-21, 15-10) and then lost on Saturday after holding a 2-1 edge only to go the distance and end up with another 3-2 loss (24-26, 25-20, 22-25, 25-21, 15-8).

While the losses were heartbreaking for the Pandas (10-6), it was a sweet sweep for the Dinos (16-0) and their third-year left-side hitter and Edmonton native Janelle Findlay, who passed on an opportunity to play with the Pandas three years ago to suit up for Calgary. While she didn't play spectacularly in the weekend series, Calgary head coach Kevin Boyles said that was more a reflection of the team's performance at times and that, when needed, Findlay stepped up her play.

"I don't think she had a great start, but it was more of a team bad start at the beginning of the match. She was one of the victims who came out of the game because of the team's start," said Boyles. "I just think the character, the heart that she has and how much she loves this team is shown in that she is willing to come off the bench and make such a big impact in the fifth set."

The Impact Findlay provides was something the Pandas had an opportunity to obtain three years ago when they were attempting to recruit her. However, the chance to start for the Dinos was too good an opportunity for her to pass up, even though it meant giving up the chance to play for



INCOMING The Pandas' Chelsea Grimson (10) prepares for a bump.

NEAL WALDING

the hometown Pandas.

"[The Dinos] were graduating one of their starting powers, which meant that by going to the team I would automatically be starting. On the Pandas, [head coach Laurie Eisler] told me that I would have been the fifth power from the bench," said Findlay. "Weighing it out, I had always wanted to go to the University of Alberta as a kid, but I took a chance, wanted to try something new and experience university away from home, but most of all it was about the opportunity for me to start."

Moving down Highway 2 turned out to be more than just a great opportunity on the court for Findlay, the 2002

CIS rookie of the year and a member of last year's championship team. It also allowed her the opportunity to avoid the constant association with her older brother Peter, a former Golden Bears volleyball player, who has the Bears' second-best all-time kill percentage.

"I kind of wanted to start a new name for myself, whereas if I went to the University of Alberta I would have been Pete's sister and I would have been constantly compared to him," said Findlay. "I wanted something new and the bottom line is that in Calgary I have more say on whether we win or lose because I'm on the floor, and at the University of Alberta I wouldn't be."

NHL lockout is an academic saviour



JASON
NORMAN

Sports
Commentary

As the NHL lockout stretches into its fourth month, I can't help but think about all the positives that have come out of this situation so far. I know that even mentioning the benefits of this lockout is bad for our "Heartland of Hockey" culture, but just think about it: the poker world couldn't be happier about this work stoppage, girlfriends and wives are being re-introduced to their normally hockey-hungry loved ones, and I stand on the summit of an academic achievement the likes of which have not been seen since I was in elementary school.

It's true: while poker chip sales have shot up just as fast as beer sales have fallen, my fortunes have turned out somewhere in the middle with an incredible semester of school that has raised my GPA to heights that I once thought were impossible. It turns out, though, that this type of achievement was only impossible to someone who watched 82 Oilers games per year and three hours of highlights every night. Factor in all the alcohol consumption on these nights and it's no wonder my GPA was looking more like the scores for a one-legged figure skater.

At this same period in the hockey

season last year, I could barely stay awake for the drive in to school, let alone worry about studying or writing papers discussing the Buddhist ideologies found in Charlotte's Web.

The graph, mounted on four-foot by four-foot bright pink poster board, illustrated that I was 300 per cent more likely to show public displays of affection after an Oilers win, and after a loss I was 450 per cent more likely to either sulk, cry or basically be totally emotionally distant.

It was also around this time last year that my then-girlfriend unveiled the chart she was working on which showed the direct and irrefutable correlation between the outcomes of hockey games and my mood and demeanor.

The graph, mounted on four-foot by four-foot bright pink poster board, illustrated that I was 300 per cent more likely to show public displays of affection after an Oilers win, and after a loss I was 450 per cent more likely to either sulk, pout, cry, or basically be

totally emotionally distant and sullen for the next eight to ten hours. This sassy psychology honours student also found that after a victorious outcome in a hockey game I would also be more passionate, affectionate, and attentive, while after a defeat I was more prone to black out for hours due to my rage, forcing her to walk home.

A year later I am left without either hockey or a girlfriend, but after this last semester I have discovered that I am capable of a few more flashes of brilliance, at least as far as English papers are concerned. If somebody would've told me last year that if I gave up hockey for four months I could get straight As in school, I would've said he was crazier than a shithouse rat—but it happened.

As the days of this lockout drag on, it's more and more clear to me that there will be no NHL this season; no playoffs, no Red Mile, nobody hoisting the Stanley Cup, and no last-minute last-ditch effort by the Oilers to squeak in for another shot at the Holy Grail. However, it has become more than clear to me these last few months that those things don't really worry me like they once did, and although when NHL hockey comes back I'll embrace it, I just don't really miss it all that much right now. I've seen the rewards that no amount of hockey can bring to a guy like me, so now the only thing I'm missing is someone who cares enough about me to construct elaborate graphs charting my mood swings.

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VARSITY STATS

Men's Hockey

Canada West standings

Mountain Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	CF	GA	P
x-Alberta	22	19	2	1	108	45	39
x-Calgary	22	8	9	5	77	66	21
UBC	22	4	13	5	62	96	13
Lethbridge	22	2	18	2	57	123	6

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	CF	GA	P
x-Saskatchewan	24	16	5	3	100	70	35
x-Manitoba	24	14	6	4	91	63	32
Regina	24	5	15	4	68	99	14

x-Clinched playoff spot (top six overall qualify)

y-Clinched first place in division

Results

Friday

Alberta 5, Regina 2

Saskatchewan 4, Calgary 2

UBC 2, Manitoba 3

Saturday

Alberta 6, Regina 4

Saskatchewan 3, Calgary 5

UBC 4, Manitoba 4

Women's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
x-Alberta	16	16	0	0	95	13	32
Regina	16	8	7	1	52	48	17
Manitoba	16	6	9	1	37	47	13
UBC	16	5	9	2	30	53	12
Lethbridge	16	4	8	4	34	54	12
Saskatchewan	16	4	10	2	35	59	10

y-Clinched first place (top four qualify for playoffs)

Results

Friday

Regina 1, Alberta 7

Saturday

Regina 0, Alberta 4

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	6. McGill (8)
2. Laurier (2)	7. Regina (7)
3. Concordia (3)	8. Ottawa (6)
7. Guelph (4)	10. Brock (10)
5. St. FX (5)	10. Toronto (9)

Women's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	F	A	P
x-Simon Fraser	16	16	0	1164	814	32
x-Winnipeg	16	14	2	1176	878	28
x-Regina	16	11	5	1044	949	22
x-UBC	16	11	5	1045	864	22
Saskatchewan	16	8	8	1157	1068	16
Victoria	16	8	8	989	959	16
Manitoba	16	8	8	1162	1085	16
Calgary	16	7	9	987	1017	14

Alberta

16 6 10 1050 1143 12

Lethbridge 16 6 10 1084 1174 12

Trinity Western 16 1 15 856 1120 2

Brandon 16 0 16 651 1294 0

x-Clinched playoff spot (top eight qualify)

y-Clinched first place in division

Results

Friday

Alberta 57, Regina 66

Trinity Western 64, Lethbridge 74

Simon Fraser 66, Calgary 47

Saturday

Trinity Western 56, Calgary 72

Simon Fraser 73, Lethbridge 69

Sunday

Alberta 76, Brandon 48

Men's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
x-Alberta	16	15	1	47	10	30
x-TWU	16	13	3	43	20	26
UBC	16	7	9	30	31	14
Calgary	16	4	12	15	41	8

Great Plains Division

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
x-Saskatchewan	16	11	5	39	21	22
x-Winnipeg	16	7	9	28	36	14
x-Manitoba	16	7	9	30	41	14
Regina	16	0	16	8	48	0

x-Clinched playoff spot (top three in each division qualify)

y-Clinched first place in division

Results

Calgary 0, Alberta 3

UBC 1, Trinity Western 3

Saturday

Calgary 0, Alberta 3

UBC 1, Trinity Western 3

Men's Basketball

Canada West standings

Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	F	A	P
x-Calgary	16	15	1	1262	1121	32
Saskatchewan	16	9	7	1291	1279	18
Alberta	16	9	7	1160	1170	18
Lethbridge	16	6	10	1280	1272	12

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	F	A	P
Victoria	16	10	6	1201	1147	20
UBC	16	9	7	1253	1127	18
Simon Fraser	16	7	9	1236	1280	10
Trinity Western	16	6	11	1188	1267	12

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	F	A	P
x-Brandon	16	12	4	1271	1163	24
x-Regina	16	7	9	1244	1261	18
Winnipeg	16	5	11	1253	1280	10
Manitoba	16	3	13	1089	1262	6

x-Clinched playoff spot (top three in each division qualify)

Results

Friday

Alberta 81, Regina 64

Simon Fraser 67, Calgary 80

Saskatchewan 65, Brandon 87

Saturday

Trinity Western 67, Calgary 84

Sunday

Alberta 76, Brandon 77

Saskatchewan 82, Regina 85

Women's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
x-Calgary	18	18	0	54	17	36
x-Winnipeg	16	14	2	44	13	28
x-UBC	16	13	3	42	16	26
x-Alberta	16	10	6	39	20	16
Regina	16	7	9	24	30	14
TWU	16	6	10	28	36	12
Manitoba	16	4	12	16	39	8
Saskatchewan	16	1	15	7	47	2
Simon Fraser	18	1	17	17	53	2

x-Clinched playoff spot (top six qualify)

y-Clinched first place in division

Results

Friday

Calgary 3, Alberta 2

Saturday

Calgary 3, Alberta 2

Sunday

Calgary 3, Alberta 2

SPORTS SHORTS

Men's Hockey

The top-ranked Golden Bears (19-2-1) swept a two-game series against the Regina Cougars (5-15-4) in Regina over the weekend. Friday night they downed the Cougars 5-2; left-wingers Tim Kymura and Jeff Kehler each scored twice for the Bears, while defenseman Chris Ovington added one goal. The next night Alberta trailed 4-3 heading into the third period, but scored three unanswered goals to claim a 6-4 win. Kehler scored again in Saturday's win as all six Bears goals came from different shooters.

The Saskatchewan Huskies (16-5-3), who are four points behind the Bears in the race for first place overall in Canada West, hurt their cause with a series split in Calgary against the Dinosaurs (8-9-5). They beat the Dinosaurs 4-2 on Friday, but lost 5-3 on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Manitoba Bisons (14-6-4), the only other team that could catch the Bears at first place, beat the UBC Thunderbirds (4-13-3) 3-2 on Friday before tying them 4-4 on Saturday. The Bisons would need to win all four of their remaining games and have the Bears lose all six of theirs to claim first overall.

Women's Basketball

Jittery first halves plagued the Pandas (6-10) in a split of two road games over the weekend. On Friday night, they scored only 18 points in the first half en route to a 66-57 loss to the seventh-ranked Regina Cougars (11-5). Sunday afternoon they faced the cellar-dwelling Brandon Bobcats (0-16) and carried only a six-point lead into the second half before pulling away for a 76-48 win. The Pandas still sit in ninth place in Canada West, one game behind the Calgary Dinosaurs for the final playoff spot in the

conference. The Dinosaurs lost 66-47 to the 16-0 Simon Fraser Clan on Friday, and beat the 1-15 Trinity Western Spartans 72-56 on Saturday.

Wrestling

The tenth-ranked Golden Bears lost a dual meet against the ninth-ranked Regina Cougars in Regina over the weekend of a series of 28-13 Bears Jarret Wall (72kg) and Jens Reuter (76kg) won their matches, while Anthony Kulak (54kg) won by default.

Four members of the fifth-ranked Pandas were also in Regina to face both the third-ranked Cougars and the Missouri Valley Lady Vikings. Panda Heidi Kulak (65kg) was 5-0, including two pinfalls, to remain unbeaten on the season. Jennifer Obst, wrestling at 61kg in most matches although she falls into the 57kg weight class, was 1-4. Kathleen White (80kg) was 2-2, while Megan Dreesman (57kg) was 0-4.

Track and Field

Members of the third-ranked Golden Bears and fifth-ranked Pandas were in Winnipeg on Saturday for the Carill Games, hosted by the University of Manitoba Bisons. The Pandas' weekend was highlighted by a 1-2-3 finish in the pole vault as Sue Kupper and Brynn Anderson tied for the lead with vaults of 3.70m, while Nikki Jesse was next at 3.50m.

The Golden Bears came up with two 1-2-3 finishes of their own: in the 60-metre dash, Antoine Boussommo finished first with a time of 6.09s, while Neville Wright was second in 7.02s and Ryan Adams finished third in 7.12s. In the 200-metre dash, Tyler Christopher crossed the line first in 33.58, followed by Boussommo in 34.66 and Nathan Cross in 35.21. The Bears also earned wins in the 4x200m and 4x400m relay.

Figure skating triple-lutzed its way into my heart

There's nothing quite like that combination of power and grace



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports Commentary

In the culture of sports it has long been thought that there's a stark divide between the rough-and-tumble sports that men worship and the artistic, fluffy sports that women adore. Men are supposed to be passionate about any sport involving balls, bats and scoring, while women only like sports that feature fancy costumes and movement set to music.

Over the last few decades this has changed so that women can love "guy sports" and even be respected for playing them, but the cult of machismo has prevented guys from being able to do the same for "girl sports" while dodging ridicule. This has left me, and thousands of other guys, in the locker-room closet for years—but not any longer.

I'm secure enough in my manhood to admit that I find a good ice dance just as stirring as a touchdown and the moments while a skater is suspended in midair just as suspenseful as any extra-innings baseball game. The years of forced viewing in my childhood, while the women of the house dominated the TV, have ingrained the beauty of figure skating in my mind, and have convinced me that I can debate even the slightest aspect of the sport with any old lady.

At first I was sure that the enjoyment was just a brave face put up until *Hockey Night in Canada* hit the air and the remote control was mine, whereupon skating could be abandoned for soccer. But gradually the music and the suspense of

the kiss and cry began to get the better of me. The unfolding of the marks and the subsequent jubilation or sorrow was unmatched anywhere else in sport or television. *How to Succeed in Business and Varsity* was a shady French judge obliterated years of hard work—all while the having a retired computer offer instant analysis from a scant few rows away—and you have a truly captivating sport.

But it's not just the emotional drama that makes figure skating such a great sport and allows it to capture a podium finish in my heart. The staggering talent needed to combine the athleticism of jumps along with grace requires a level of routine artistic marks few men swoon. Recognizing its power as an art form and the enormous skill and training it takes to pull off a triple lutz or a single salchow, or to throw and catch a partner in time to the music, bonded me to the sport—no more abandoning a skating event to go watch Nashville trap against Toronto.

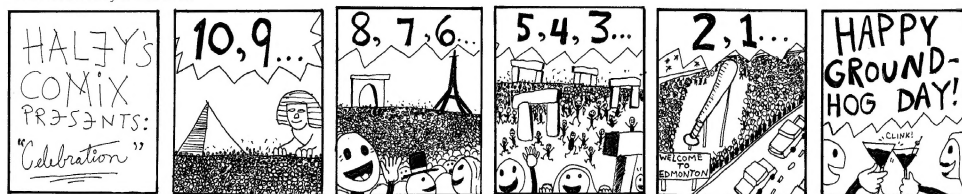
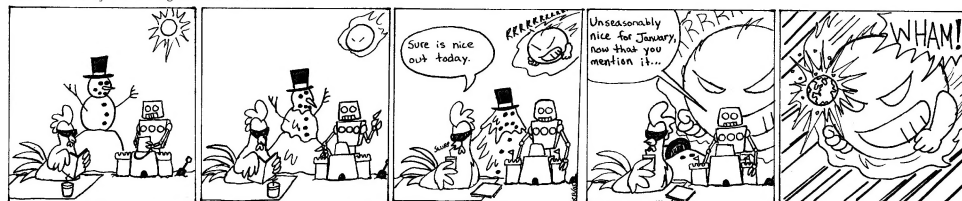
From there it was a quick descent to following the sport, learning to critique routines on the basis of artistic merit and complaining about the lack of obvious deductions. Elvis Stolk, Evgeni Plushenko and Salé and Pelletier became common topics of discussion, provoking endless passionate debates about routines, music and the merits of the quintuple axe that were as passionate as those I had about various hockey issues.

Breaking through the macho barrier and becoming a fan of figure skating made me a more passionate sports fan. I've come to embrace the fact that artistic and expressive sports are just different from those full of violent collisions, not worse and no less worthy of respect. Everyone should be able to embrace any sport, and guys shouldn't worry about liking a wider variety of sports than just with balls.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Part-time sales associate wanted at Regent Optical on Whyte Ave. No experience required, will train. Apply in person with

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PERSONALS

R's Party Time! Dial 44-PARTY Ads "Jokes" Stories & MORE Ladies-R-Free! Try it NOW! 18+

HAPPY BOB KNOWS

Campus events and more...

Centre for Health Promotion Studies, Capital Health presents Supporting Women in making Healthy Choices An intervention with low-income women smokers on Tuesday, 8 February, from 12pm to 1pm in Classroom 3-40, University Extension Centre 112 St and 89rd Ave. Santa Feisdine will present a talk about what can be done to help low-income women make changes in their health and well being, including their smoking behaviour. For more information, please contact Donna Richardson at 492-1386 or visit <http://www.chps.ualberta.ca>.

Happy Bob Knows is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. HBK is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway. HBK does not publish events that are weekly, on-going, or not open to the public. Please note: events listed in HBK are not endorsed by the Gateway Student Journalism Society. The Gateway may refuse to print a submission for any reason. Submissions will print for one issue only. Events that have a monetary cost associated with them can not run in HBK (ie your event must be FREE). To add an entry to HBK please go to www.gateway.ualberta.ca/hbk.



JESSE WHITEHEAD

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ASTRONO WATCH

Keeping an eye on the sky...

Well chumps, another week has come and gone. We're all a week closer to the only sure thing in life: death (we can lie our way out of taxes, right)? So what if I'm being a little bit "dark," we all gotta have our down weeks, kids. Ah, depression. Love it, live it.

So on a lighter note, the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is probably gonna bite the dust sometime in the next few years. The US government has just made a decision to cut funding to an HST servicing mission for the aging orbital telescope, and to dump its sciency corpse in a watery grave sometime after 2008. And I was kidding about the whole "lighter note" thing. The HST has made public the mysteries of the universe, and truly brought science to the people. To see some of

the beautiful images the HST has taken over the years go to <http://www.hubblestore.org>.

If you want to see my fine planet this week, you best be getting up early. Mars is shining in the southeastern sky, just above the horizon. Don't get it confused with the red giant star Antares, though, also in the southeast. Mars will be the lower of the two red-dish sparks.

No, silly, it's not astrology; it's astronomy. *AstronoWatch* is a weekly feature published most Tuesdays (and some odd Thursdays). Our resident astronomer, **Kati Kovacs**, sets the stage for the cosmos, and invites you up to the Campus Observatory every Thursday evening at 8pm. Just take the elevator in the Physics Building up to the sixth floor, and then the stairs up to the seventh floor. Walk out onto the roof and check out the view with the University's telescopes. To catch *AstronoWatch* on the web go to www.ckovacs.blogspot.com.